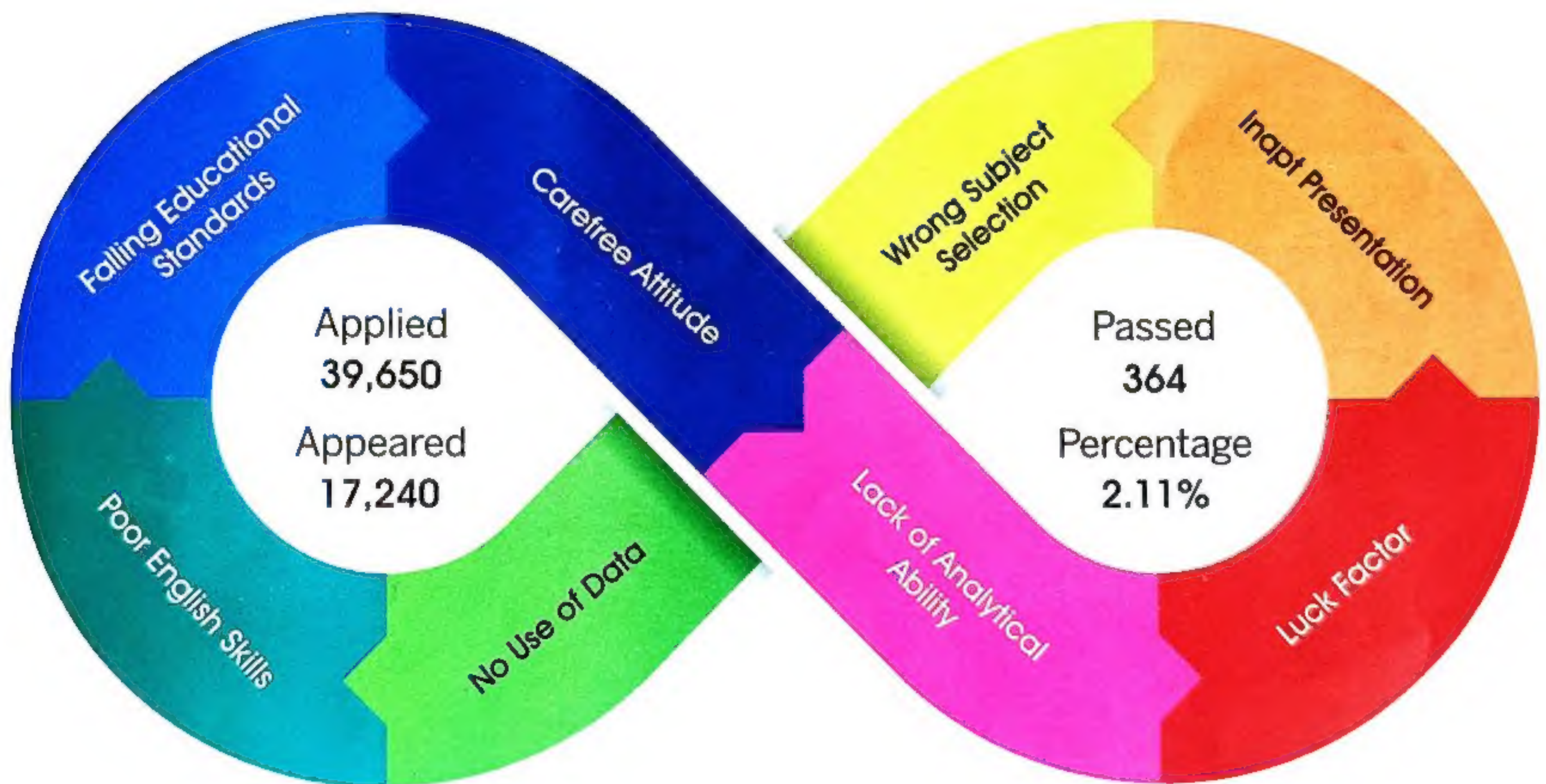


WORLD TIMES

CSS-2021

Written Part Result



A PERENNIAL SAGA

WORLD TIMES**WORLD TIMES****WORLD TIMES****WORLD TIMES**

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Correspondence and suggestions should be addressed to:

Mr Adeel Niaz, Jahangir's World Times, 121-D, Gulberg II, Lahore, Pakistan.

Tel: 042-35754518, 35760323 Fax: 042-35760322

www.jworldtimes.com Email: adeelniaz78@gmail.com, adeelniaz@jbdpress.com

Patron-in-Chief: Ejaz Rahim (Sitara-i-Imtiaz)

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Manager Admin: Asma Saeed

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Marketing Managers: M. Imran Yousaf (Lhr): 0345-4664771, Hassan Nafees (Lhr): 0333-4198173

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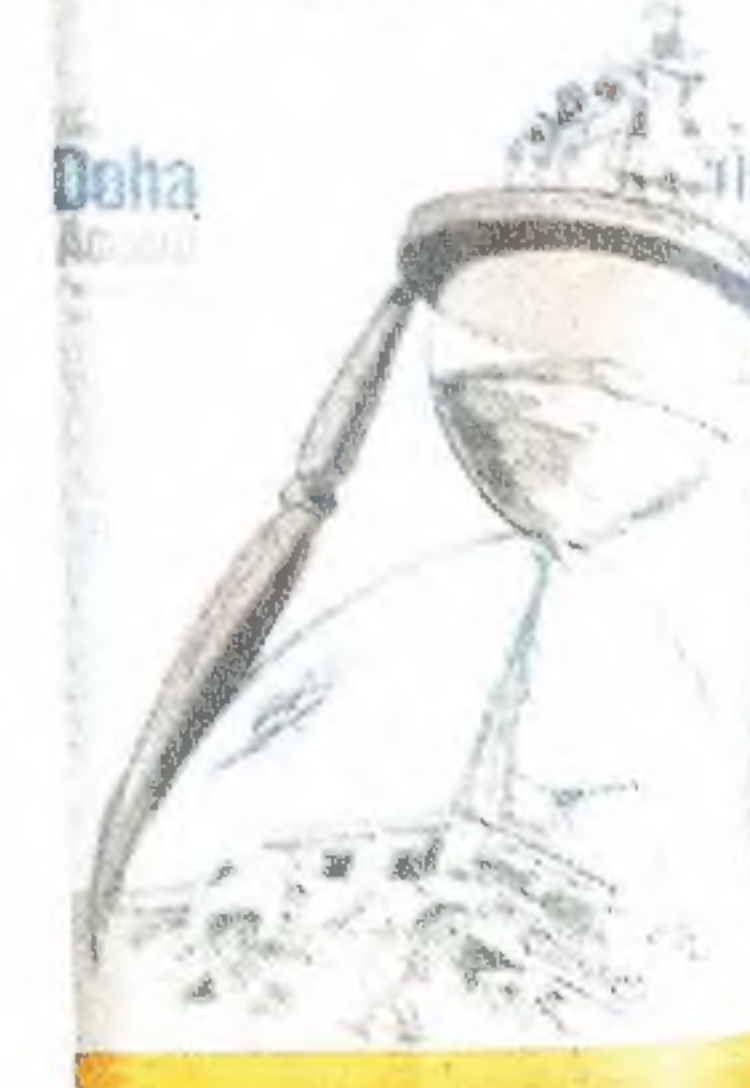
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Surah-20 Ta Ha/ Ayat 6: To Him belongs what is in the heavens and on earth, and all between them, and all beneath the soil.

An Ungrateful Ally

DO you know that there is a country that has a track record of stabbing its allies in the back? Hint: It's a country that ultimately proves to be an unreliable ally. You got it right! It is the United States of America. With its recent actions and overtures, it has again proved Dr Henry Kissinger right who once said, "To be an enemy of America can be dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal."

These words by a former US Secretary of State have gained all the more significance in the wake of the humiliating withdrawal of the United States from Afghanistan after a 20-year-long war – America's longest. Now that this American venture has proved to be a serious strategic failure, there is a strong temptation for US policymakers to find something, or someone, to blame. Just as Cambodia was the scapegoat for a botched war in Vietnam, neighbouring countries to the Afghan conflict present a convenient target. So, it is likely, that Pakistan – America's "most allied ally" in the words of President Richard Nixon – will again be subjected to American wrath. A clue to this future scenario comes from a statement by America's top diplomat, Secretary of State Antony Blinken who, while speaking at a public hearing in Congress, made highly uncharitable remarks about Pakistan, accusing the country of "harbouring members of the Taliban" and "hedging its bets constantly about the future of Afghanistan". Despite admitting in the same breath that Pakistan has cooperated "with us on counterterrorism" at "different points," Secretary Blinken said that Washington would be reassessing its ties with Islamabad. "This is one of the things we're going to be looking at in the days, and weeks ahead — the role that Pakistan has played over the last 20 years but also the role we would want to see it play in the coming years and what it will take for it to do that," he said.

Isn't it surprising that such a high-ranking official of a country that failed, in spite of its huge military might, to defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan, has publicly berated Pakistan which is far more inferior to it in terms of military paraphernalia as well as the financial sources? "The total budget of Pakistan was \$ 50 billion for 220 million people while Americans were spending \$ 300 million dollars a day and in total, they spent \$ two trillion on the Afghan war," PM Khan pointed out in a recent interview. Moreover, it was the United States, not Pakistan, that recognized the Taliban's right to rule in Afghanistan through an agreement with them. There is little doubt left then that this defeat was, in effect, a huge foreign policy failure of his own government. No one can deny the fact that Pakistan has long been urging the United States to engage the Taliban politically to avoid a catastrophic defeat.

Vali Nasr, a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and a Professor at John Hopkins University, in his book 'The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat' says that he had based his writing on the advice of Pakistan's then Army Chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani to the US – to negotiate the exit with Taliban. The book mentions that General Kayani told American officials during a visit to Washington in 2010 that they would be "better off" negotiating an exit from Afghanistan with the Taliban, instead of trying to build up Afghan forces to 400,000 by 2014. In a 13-page White Paper that Gen. Kayani gave President Obama in October 2010, the Pakistani COAS advised the US government in the following words:

"You are not going to win the war, and you are not going to transfer Afghanistan. This place has devoured empires before you; it will defy you as well. Stop your grandiose plans and let's get practical, sit down, and discuss how you will leave and, what is an end state, we can both live with."

Nasr concludes: "Kayani's counsel was basically: 'if you want to leave, just leave — we don't believe you were going to stay anyway — but don't do any more damage on your way out. Pakistan would like to remain a part of the solution, and not the problem. At the end of the day, we would like to be standing in the right corner of the room'."

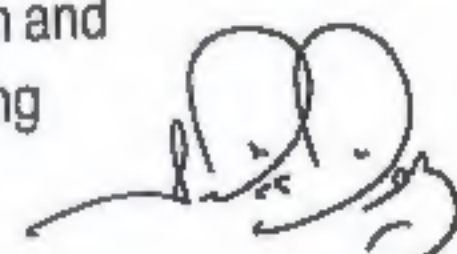
Moreover, Shuja Nawaz in his "The Battle For Pakistan," has noted that Gen Kayani, who was known as an intellectual general, in a five-part assessment of the Afghan war asserted that the outcome of the war in Afghanistan was a question of life and death for Pakistan. Also, he bemoaned the "vitriolic and biased coverage of Pakistan in the electronic and print media" in the US that made "support to Pakistan ... more tentative and future relationship more uncertain".

The US establishment cannot, and must not, scapegoat Pakistan for two decades of bad policy in Afghanistan as the latter has cooperated with America from the days of the Afghan 'jihad', through the 'war on terror'. It has also helped foreigners safely exit Afghanistan after the Taliban's recent takeover. So, it is indeed perplexing that Pakistan is being held responsible for the US' own failures in Afghanistan. It seems that the US policymakers have turned a blind eye to the negative impact of an unstable Afghanistan on Pakistan. The country has lost approximately 83,000 civilians in the War on Terror, and estimates show that it has cost Pakistan's economy \$126 billion dollars. In contrast, the much-touted \$6 billion dollars in aid it has received from Washington is seen as a pittance by Pakistani civilians and policymakers alike.

The United States needs to avoid making a mistake it made after the Soviet-Afghan war when it abandoned Pakistan and left it alone to deal with the multifarious challenges in the post-war scenario. It is not a secret as former Secretary of State, Hillary R. Clinton, herself admitted during a congressional hearing on the Obama administration's foreign policy in 2009. She stated: "We also have a history of kind of moving in and out of Pakistan ... [after Soviet withdrawal] We left Pakistan ... We said okay fine you deal with the Stingers that we left all over your country... you deal with the mines that are along the border and... by the way we don't want to have anything to do with you... in fact we're sanctioning you... So we stopped dealing with the Pakistani military and with ISI and we now are making up for a lot of lost time."

In this backdrop, the only sane way to deal with Pakistan is what PM Khan has suggested in an interview. He said, "Both Pakistan and the United States need to prevent terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. To this end, we should cooperate to help in stabilizing Afghanistan by addressing the humanitarian crisis in that country and supporting its economic recovery."

It would be better for the US to move forward in its ties with Pakistan and to try and build a positive, mutually respectful and beneficial relationship. Blaming Pakistan for America's failures is unlikely to help improve relations. A fresh approach is needed from Washington, not veiled threats to 'reassess' relations.



Adeel Niaz

adeelniaz78@gmail.com

Facebook.com/AdeelNiazJWT

CONTENTS

NATIONAL

34

Pakistan's Afghan Challenge

It is now left to Pakistan to make a case for global engagement with Afghanistan. Pakistan's efforts are geared towards reminding the international community of its responsibility towards the Afghan people.

... by Amanat Ali Chaudhry



42

The Modernization of Agriculture

This huge strategic significance of agriculture for - Pakistan's socio-economic and political development warrants holistic reforms in order to have inclusive and equitable prosperity of our homeland

... by Aftab H. Wahla

49

Single National Curriculum in Pakistan

The formulation and introduction of Single National Curriculum has resulted in controversy and seen much debate across mainstream media, civil society, and some social media platforms

... by Hassaan Bin Zubair

37 | Taliban's Return to Power ✓

40 | Bogus Tax Refund

46 | Deterrent Punishments

52 | Syed Ali Geelani

54 | Changing Climate ✓

INTERNATIONAL

How America and NATO Betrayed the Global Humanity



16

Afghan political leaders were responsible for the turmoil and continuing societal conflicts with massive corruption and illegitimacy of the political rule as they fled the country

... by Dr Mahboob A. Khawaja

20

Government of Taliban in Afghanistan

From international law perspective, there is no question about the recognition of the state of Afghanistan, which is acknowledged and respected by all. The question is about the political and legal government

... by Kamran Adil

24

Uranium Theft in India

The countries in the region including China and Pakistan have repeatedly called for strengthening regulations following repeated incidents of theft of nuclear material in India

... by Shafqat Javed

12 | The Future of American Power ✓

22 | US Departure from Afghanistan

23 | Can South Asia Learn Any Lessons

26 | What Makes a Failed State?

27 | AUKUS ✓

28 | BRICS Summit 2021 ✓

30 | Dismantling Global Hindutva

72

CSS
INTERVIEW

Questions

INTERVIEWS



58

Syed
Abdul Rehman
28th in Pakistan,
CSS 2020-21



66

Jawad Hussain
Pirzada
35th in Punjab,
PMS 2019-20

GK CORNER

- 96 | The Indo-Pacific Region ✓
- 98 | Havana Syndrome
- 100 | Understanding Ecocide ✓
- 102 | The Conflict in Tigray ✓



108

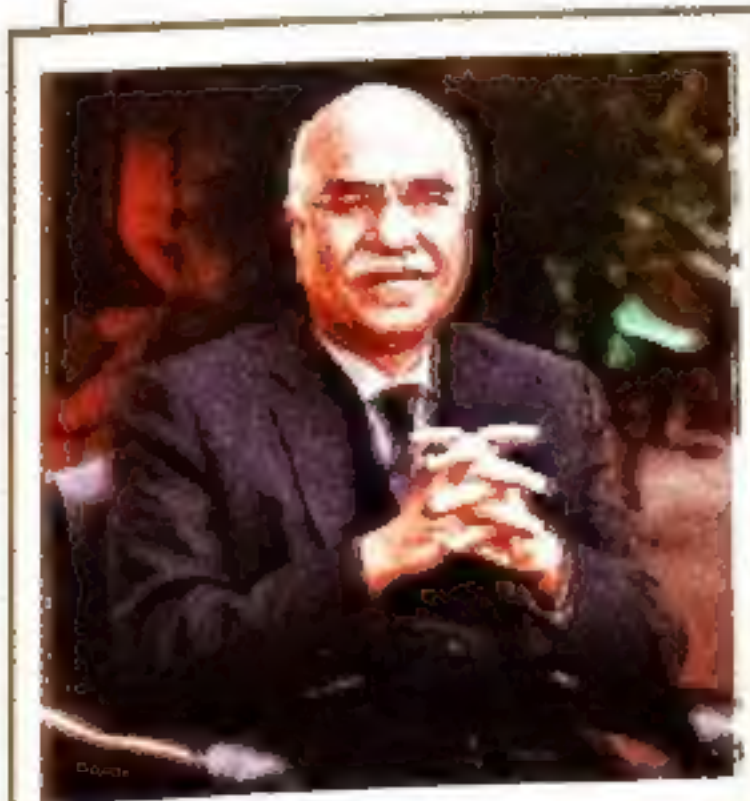
GENERAL

- 5 | From the Editor's Desk
- 8 | Letters to the Editor
- 10 | Rise, Fall and Rise of the Quad
- 32 | Security Challenges for CARs ✓
- 60 | Rasoolpur
- 64 | Nord Stream 1-2 Gas Pipelines
- 94 | Pakistan's First 'Smart Forest'

78

Dr Amjad Saqib

It is indeed a proud moment for Pakistan as Dr Amjad Saqib, the founder of Akhuwat, has received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, popularly known as the "Asian Nobel Prize" for the year 2021
... by Mehboob Hussain Babar



9

Imran Khan's Address to UNGA

EXAM PACK

68

Do We Really Need Literature in Our Lives?

There is no doubt in the fact that we really need literature in our lives. Though it may not be the essential ingredient of life like water, food or oxygen; its significance for the best quality of life cannot be denied

... by Muhammad Asim Jasra

76

Confidence

While some self-help books will tell you to use affirmations, they don't always work unless you utilize the power of your core values

... by Saba Sibghat



62

84

The Royal Prerogative in the UK

The Royal Prerogatives are one of the legal sources of the country's un-codified constitution. They are legal because of their growing justifiability

... by Mawra Raja

86 | Covid-19 and Sustainability ✓

88 | Tawhid and Its Effects on Man's Life

91 | Global Warming ✓

BOOKS



80



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LETTER to the EDITOR

Covid-19 and Our Education System

In a country already scarred by stark differences in the quality of education between public and private schools, as well as low literacy rates, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the learning of approximately 40 million students across Pakistan. As reported by UNICEF, remote learning was not possible for 23% of young children due to a lack of access to digital devices. The pandemic has hit poor and disadvantaged families the hardest, as they are unable to purchase even a single device. Geographical barriers have also had an impact. Around 26% of urban youth had no access to technology whereas, in the countryside, that figure rose to 36%. Remote learning is also challenging for children with disabilities and girls.

Atia Waseem
Kalam

The Population Bomb

Growing population is burdening the already scarce resources of the country. Reports suggest that a widespread hunger, even famine, may hit Pakistan soon if crop production is not increased to match the country's population growth; which it doesn't at the moment and will not unless pretty drastic measures are taken. To keep our population fed and healthy, every year we import a lot more food than we would have had to if its growth rate weren't so high. And we also have to import a lot more fuel, medicines and other things just to meet our needs. That runs into a lot of extra expenditure, of course, and bloats our current account deficit to unaffordable levels, especially in the current economic environment. In times of turmoil, like the ongoing bout with the pandemic when the economy is forced to shut down occasionally, the high population number puts a lot of additional burden on the exchequer when the government must sprinkle subsidies and stimulus packages over the lowest earning groups just to keep them fed and healthy. The government will have to pay attention to this looming time bomb by formulating such policies that may help in increasing crop production while at the same time in keeping the country's population growth in check. Unless both these things are done in tandem, the results will disappoint.

Sara Ahmad
Karachi

Iran-US Deal

It was expected that Biden administration will return to the Iran Nuclear Deal. However, the relations between the two countries have gone worse. For the past few months, however, it seems that relations might move towards normalcy but voting in of the new President, the conservative Ebrahim Raisi, stalled the process. In his address to UNGA, Iranian President voiced support for reviving the nuclear deal and for renewed nuclear negotiations, even while in the midst of a tirade against what he called the decline of US hegemony. On the other hand, US President Joe Biden, in his own address, reiterated his willingness to return to the nuclear accord, and lift sanctions, but also asserted firmly that he would do everything to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. While these may not be the most diplomatic statements of conciliation, the addresses at the UNGA are a positive sign that relations are thawing. Iran has now formally announced its interest in resuming the talks, which could go a long way in bringing a return to the JCPOA.

Asad Zaman
Chakwal

India's Stubbornness

It's no surprise that headlines about the UNGA session are dominated by Pakistan and India trading angry accusations as PM Imran Khan's address prompted a very undiplomatic and loaded response from an Indian diplomat. Such things are not uncommon at all, regrettably, but now there is a very recognisable pattern to them. The Pakistani side, especially PM Khan, presents data to back all concerns and the Indians make hollow accusations and fall all over themselves. Pakistan has also always made the very sensible gesture of inviting international observers as well as leaders to its side of the Line of Control (LoC) to see things for themselves; and dared India to do the same.

The problem is that whenever Kashmir, or other contentious disputes between Pakistan and India, comes under the spotlight, India quickly snaps out the same old statement that these are bilateral matters and no outside interference would be allowed. That would be fine, but Delhi also does not indulge in any meaningful bilateral exchanges with Islamabad, and thus ensures endless status quo. PM Khan is doing the right thing given the circumstances; and that is to present on-ground reality at all important forums and not let anybody brush India's blatant anti-Muslim policies under the carpet anymore. But now that this circus has gone on too long, and Delhi is confident of getting away with dissolving Kashmir's special status and also its controversial citizenship laws, perhaps it is finally time for the international community to take a closer look at this issue. This matter has dragged on for more than seven decades only because of India's stubbornness.

Mustaqeem Ahmad
Islamabad

PRIME MINISTER

IMRAN KHAN**Keynote address at****The 76th Session of United Nations General Assembly**

and by next year almost 90% will plunge below the poverty line.

Triple Challenge

The world is facing triple challenge of Covid-19, economic calamities, and climate emergencies, attested PM Khan. "The virus does not discriminate between nations and peoples. Nor do the catastrophes imposed by uncertain weather patterns," he said, noting that these common threats not only expose the fragility of the international system but also underscore "the oneness of humanity".

Although Pakistan has been successful in containing the pandemic through "a calibrated strategy of smart lockdowns," the Prime Minister underscored the need for a "comprehensive strategy" that encompasses vaccine equity; financing for

developing countries; and investment strategies to alleviate poverty, create jobs, build sustainable infrastructure and bridge the digital divide. "I propose that the Secretary-General convene an SDG summit in 2025 to review and accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he said.

End Islamophobia

Calling for collective efforts to fight the emerging threat of terrorism in the form of Islamophobia, PMIK urged a global dialogue to counter its rise while simultaneously promoting interfaith harmony. He underscored that "the worst and most pervasive form" of Islamophobia "now rules India" and said the "Hindutva ideology" being propagated by the current Government was unleashing "a reign of fear and violence" against India's 200-million-strong Muslim community.

The Prime Minister maintained that "Pakistan desires peace with India, as with all its neighbours", but sustainable peace is "contingent upon resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute".

"The onus remains on India to create a conducive environment for meaningful and result-oriented engagement with Pakistan", he said, which requires that Delhi reverse its unilateral and illegal measures instituted since 5 August 2019; ends its oppression and human rights violations against the people of Kashmir; and "reverses the demographic changes in the occupied territory."

The writer is a member of staff.

ON

September 24, Prime Minister Imran Khan (PMIK), in his address to the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly via video link, made a strong pitch for the world to rally behind Afghanistan's nascent Taliban government for preserving the progress made by the war-ravaged country over the past two decades, and preventing it from turning into a safe haven for terrorists. The address was also a sombre reminder of the many challenges faced by the international community in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis,

the resulting economic downturn and the climate emergency. Kashmir and the state-sponsored marginalisation of Muslims in India was also a significant talking point within the address.

Following is a brief on his address:

Kashmir Issue

PMIK said India's actions in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir amounted to "war crimes" and the "crimes against humanity" and regretted the world's "selective" approach owing to corporate interests. "It is unfortunate, very unfortunate, that the world's approach to violations of human rights lacks even-handedness, and even is selective," the prime minister said. He added that India was violating the international human rights laws including the 4th Geneva Convention, and pointed that "geopolitical considerations and corporate interests" had compelled the major powers to overlook the transgressions of their "affiliated" countries.

He informed the UNGA that India had undertaken a series of illegal and unilateral measures in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019, and that India had unleashed a reign of terror by an occupation force of 900,000, jailed senior Kashmiri leadership and imposed a clampdown on media and the internet. He said the abduction of 13,000 young Kashmiris, extra-judicial killing of hundreds of innocent Kashmiris in fake "encounters" and collective punishments by destroying entire neighbourhoods and villages, which he added had become a norm. He recalled that the most recent example of Indian barbarity was the forcible snatching of the mortal remains of the great Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani from his family, denying him a proper Islamic funeral and burial.

The PM called upon this General Assembly to demand that Syed Geelani's mortal remains be allowed to be buried in the "cemetery of martyrs" with Islamic rites.

Afghanistan

Warning of a looming humanitarian crisis, PMIK said a "destabilized, chaotic Afghanistan" could again emerge as a safe haven for international terrorists, and urged the world for measures to strengthen its government for the "people of Afghanistan." He warned the world about a "huge humanitarian crisis" ahead which could have serious repercussions not just for the neighbours of Afghanistan but everywhere. "This is a critical time for Afghanistan ... You cannot waste time. Help is needed there. Humanitarian assistance has to be given there immediately," PMIK told the gathering of world leaders.

PMIK said the United States went wrong when it tried to force a military solution in Afghanistan. He said it was time that the international community ponders on the way ahead and said If Afghanistan was neglected, then according to the UN, half the people of Afghanistan were already vulnerable,



RISE, FALL, AND RISE OF THE QUAD

What Is The Quad?

The Quad, officially the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), is not a formal alliance. It is an informal strategic forum comprising four maritime democracies:

India, Japan, Australia and the United States



PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Maritime security, addressing climate change, combating Covid-19 pandemic, among others.

The Quad is also seen as an attempt to counter the growing might of China

Quad 1.0 - Creation

2004

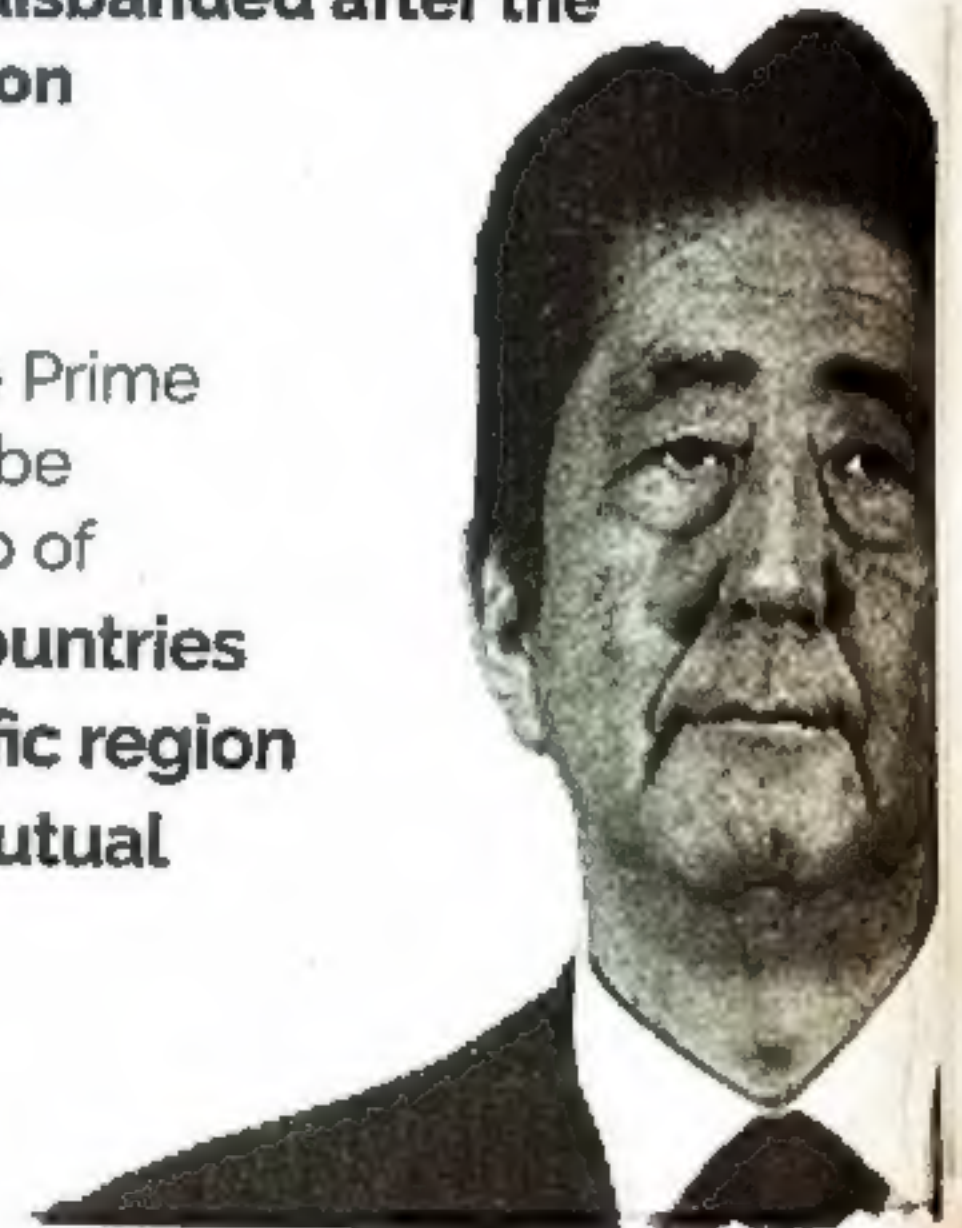
Quad's origins can be traced back to the Indian Ocean tsunami when India, along with Japan, the US and Australia, **conducted relief and rescue operations in the region**



The group was disbanded after the 2004-05 operation

2006

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed a group of **"like-minded countries in the Asia-Pacific region on themes of mutual interest"**



2007

May: **The first informal meeting** between the four countries took place



Sep: Malabar **military exercise** held at an unprecedented scale involving India, Japan, Australia, US, and Singapore



The fall

2007

Sep: **Shinzo Abe resigned** as Japanese PM

Nov: Quad **critic Kevin Rudd** became PM of Australia; gradually the country backed out of the arrangement (presumably due to pressure from China)



2008

The alliance **gradually fell apart**

Quad 2.0: Revival

2017

Japan **officially proposed** a revival of the Quad

The first working-level meeting under the Quad took place in Manila



2020

Australia joined the trilateral India-US-Japan Malabar naval exercise after more than a decade

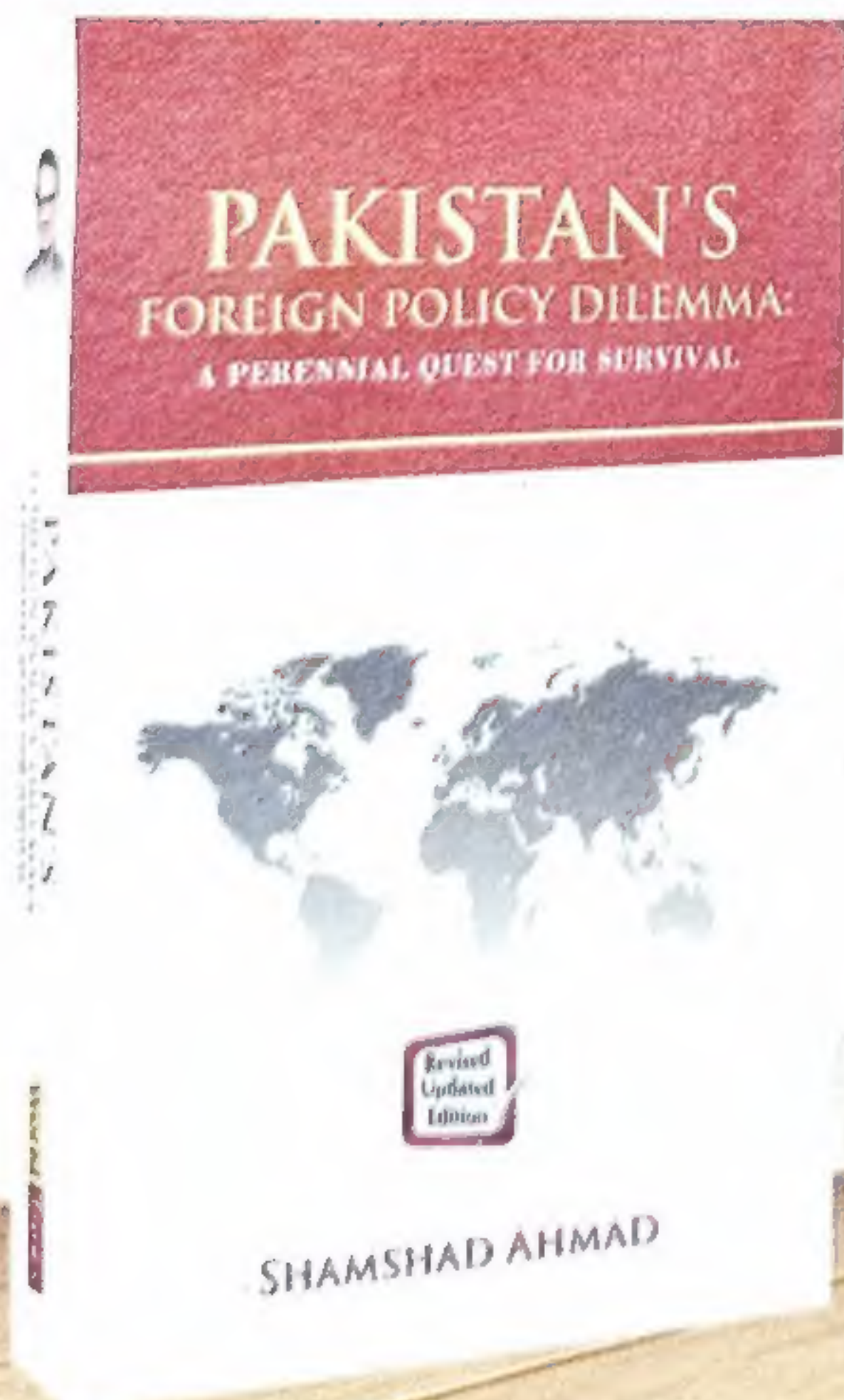
2021

Mar: Quad leaders met **virtually**

Sep: **The first in-person meeting** of the Quad countries announced



Latest Books by Hamid Khan



PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY DILEMMA: A PERENNIAL QUEST FOR SURVIVAL

Shamshad Ahmad's book stands out as a thorough and stimulating study of Pakistan's foreign policy that combines a diplomat's experience with academic discourse. It is not a chronology of major developments in Pakistan's interaction with the rest of the world.

Dr Hasan Askari Rizvi; PhD (U. Penn.)
Professor Emeritus (PU, Lahore)
Former Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab

"Pakistan's Foreign Policy Dilemma: A Perennial Quest for Survival" offers a comprehensive overview drawing upon the author's vast experience and insights acquired as a distinguished and well-respected Pakistani diplomat.

Riaz Mohammad Khan
Former Foreign Secretary

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The Future of American Power



As the United States leaves Afghanistan in chaos, despite repeated warnings from home and abroad, seven doyens of politics and international relations wrote in a noted British magazine about whether the United States will be able to keep its influence in global politics intact in the future. Important points from their articles are being presented here.

Dr. M. Usmani

1. Robert D. Kaplan

(Robert Strausz-Hupé Chair in Geopolitics at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

In his piece, Robert D. Kaplan identified several reasons why the geography of the United States places it in a better position than most of its rivals, allowing it to maintain an imperial-like position with extensive economic and military commitments across the globe.

The first reason he gives is that it has an abundance of water resources and is not surrounded by powerful or hostile neighbours.

According to him, "Notwithstanding the pathologies of this tighter, more interconnected world – terrorism, viral pandemics, ransomware – America, unlike China, is self-sufficient in hydrocarbons ... The southern border, which American only poor migrants, and not each other like on China's

"That geography helps miscalculate and fail in recover, unlike smaller and which have little margin for American decline are over-

The fact that the United States is unwanted internal threats, ity, has little bearing on this In the words of the author, "America still provides it with an edge against This is true despite internal threats. to America's social cohesion from wealth inequality that geography against (and which roil other countries and Russia, which vie for "great This geographical advantage, tions. With domestic tensions

to save the United States from all of

face in the near future. Thus, the United States must strive to build and maintain good relations with other countries.



conservatives wail about, involves the soldiers of two armies facing southern frontier with India."

explain why America can successive wars, yet completely less well-situated countries error. Thus, stories about rated," he added.

currently facing a slew of including wealth inequality position.

ica's geographical bounty great-power adversaries. They include challenges new technology and cannot wholly defend tries too, notably China power" status).

however, has its limitations exposed, it may be unable the crises that it is likely to

2. Henry Kissinger

(Former Secretary of State and National Security Adviser)

The former United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger discussed some of the reasons he believed contributed to the failure of the United States in Afghanistan. To begin with, he states that when the United States endangers the lives of its military, puts its prestige at stake, and makes decisions concerning the future of other countries, it must do so with a combination of strategic and political objectives, which it has always failed to do. He said, "The United States has torn itself apart in its counterinsurgent efforts because of its inability to define attainable goals and to link the American political process. The military objectives have been too absolute and unattainable and the political ones too abstract and elusive." "The failure to link them to each other has involved America in conflicts without definable terminal points and caused us internally to dissolve unified purpose in a swamp of domestic controversies," he added. Second, it failed to understand that changing Afghanistan into a modern government that ruled in accordance with the provisions of a constitution could not have prevented the re-establishment of Taliban bases was essentially achieved. But nation-building in a war-torn country absorbed substantial military forces. The Taliban could be contained but not eliminated. And the introduction of unfamiliar forms of government weakened political commitment and enhanced already rife corruption."



Third, by being overly focused on the destruction of the Taliban when they should have been focusing on containment, the US had overlooked a viable alternative combining achievable goals.

3. Francis Fukuyama

(Political Scientist, and Senior Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies)

According to Francis Fukuyama, the hegemonic status of the United States peaked between the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the financial crisis in 2007-09, which has been declining since then, with some other countries making notable progress in various sectors.

He stated, "The country was dominant in many domains of power back then — military, economic, political and cultural. The height of American hubris hoped to be able to remake not just Afghanistan (invaded two years before) and Iraq, but the whole of the Middle East." "The degree of unipolarity in this period has been relatively rare in history, and the normal state of multipolarity ever since, other centres gaining power relative to America," he added.

Addressing the abrupt withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan, he said, "Afghanistan's ultimate effect on geopolitics is likely to be small. America survived an earlier, humiliating defeat when it withdrew from Vietnam in 1975, but it quickly regained its dominance within a decade, and today it works with Vietnam to curb Chinese expansionism. America still has many economic and cultural advantages that few other countries can match." However, the most serious threat the global standing of the United States faces today is that its society is deeply polarised, making it difficult for people to reach consensus on nearly everything. The ongoing pandemic has only made it more severe. According to Fukuyama, "This polarisation started over conventional policy issues like taxes and abortion, but since then has metastasised into a bitter fight over cultural identity. The demand for recognition on the part of groups that feel they have been marginalised by elites was something I identified 30 years ago as an Achilles' heel of modern democracy."



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4. Niall Ferguson

(Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and author of the book "Doom: The Politics of Catastrophe")

Niall Ferguson revisited Britain's history and compared it to America's current social, political and economic conditions to determine whether the latter's days of dominance will end in the same way that the former's did a century ago. He reached the conclusion that the end of America's empire is likely to invite wider conflict for several reasons. To begin, the patterns of growth in Britain's public debt at the beginning of the twentieth century and the current state of America's federal debt are similar.

As the author pointed out, "Britain's public debt after the First World War rose from 109% of GDP in 1918 to just under 200% in 1934. America's federal debt is different in important ways, but it is comparable in magnitude. It will reach nearly 110% of GDP this year, even higher than its previous peak in the immediate aftermath of the second world war."

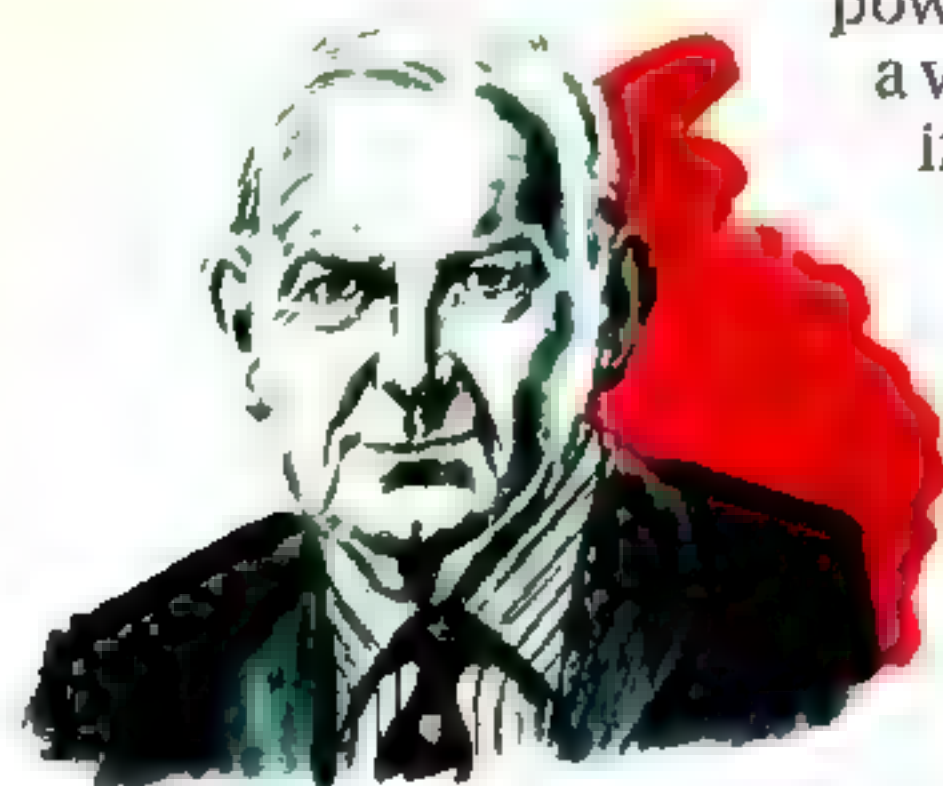
Second, just as the British economy was overtaken by not only America's, but also Germany's and the Soviet Union by the 1930s, America is now facing a similar problem due to China.

Ferguson stated, "America today has a similar problem of relative decline in economic output. On the basis of purchasing-power parity, which allows for the lower prices of many Chinese domestic goods, the GDP of China caught up with that of America in 2014. On a current-dollar basis, the American economy is still bigger, but the gap is projected to narrow. This year China's current-dollar GDP will be around 75% of America's. By 2026, it will be 89%."

Third, the negative net international investment position (NIIP) of the United States also raises serious concerns about whether it will be able to keep its superpower status in the future.

In the words of Ferguson, "One other difference - in many ways more profound than the fiscal deficit - is the negative net international investment position (NIIP) of the United States, which is just under - 70% of GDP. A negative NIIP essentially means that foreign ownership of American assets exceeds American ownership of foreign assets. By contrast, Britain still had a hugely positive NIIP between the wars, despite the amounts of overseas assets that had been liquidated to finance the First World War. From 1922 until 1936 it was consistently above 100% of GDP. By 1947, it was down to 3%."

Finally, the possibility of further unnecessary wars in the future jeopardises the current dominant status of the United States.



5. Paul Kennedy

(Professor of History at Yale University and the author/editor of 19 books)

Mr Kennedy suggests that changes in global politics, armed forces and economics means America has a new contender for supremacy in the form of China.

Examining the forces shaping the country's global standing, from the rise of China to the withdrawal from Afghanistan, Mr Kennedy believes that instead of defeat in Afghanistan - which marks yet another American retreat from Asia - a longer-term issue for American policymakers is the steady rise of Chinese power. He wrote:

"For the entire 20th century, the American economy was, roughly speaking, about two to four times larger than that of any of the other great powers. America was roughly ten times larger than Japan when Pearl Harbour was attacked and three times larger than Germany when Hitler rashly declared war. That unique condition is ending and an amazing flip is happening in world affairs due to China's combination of demographic size and rising prosperity. With a population of 1.4bn compared to America's 330m, its citizens need only to achieve half the income of the average American for its total economy to be twice as large. That would give China an enormous amount of funds for future defence spending. Neither a Democratic nor Republican president could do much about that."

He further noted:

"The biggest global transformation since the 1980s has been in the sheer size of the Chinese economy today as compared to America's. Whatever questions might validly be raised about China's economic power, such as its unreliable statistics, a shrinking future workforce and so on, the fact is that it still grows at a faster pace, both pre- and post-Covid-19. Its economy, measured in terms of GDP adjusted for purchasing-power parity, is already about as big as America's.

This is a staggering statistic and points to a condition that has not existed since the 1880s, when America's economy overtook Britain's. The international system now comprises four or maybe five very large states. None of them can, either through hard power or soft power, compel the others to do what they don't want to do. This marks a very significant redistribution of world power, so it simply is not enough to claim, if it is correct, that America remains number one: for even if it is the biggest gorilla in the jungle, it is only one of a bunch of gorillas! And it is irrelevant to the argument to say that Russia's position has shrunk even further than America's, when both of them have lost ground relatively—which is, after all, what realist, great-power theory is about.

Advising the Chinese president, Mr Kennedy says, "Perhaps all that President Xi needs to do, imitating Deng, is to avoid missteps and let China's economy and military capacity grow, decade after decade."

6. Kori Schake

(Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute)

Admitting that most Americans would prefer to remain uninvolved in the world and that it will be difficult for the US government to sustain international commitments, especially involving countries not constituted along similar domestic lines, Ms Kori Schake believes that the United States is still the architect of a durable political, economic and security order that has made it and others safer and more prosperous. She further notes that the debacle in Afghanistan doesn't call into question the order itself as the US and its allies persevered in Afghanistan for 20 years despite very slow progress and the potential challenges of the country will be deterred due to this fact. She suggested the following to strengthen the current system.

1. Close the "strategy-resources" gap

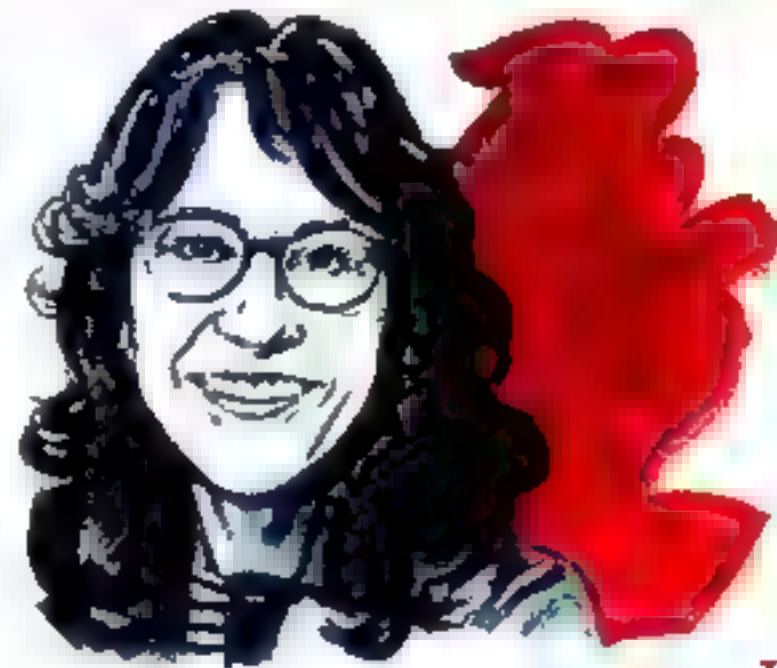
For the past 20 years, America has allowed dedicated social programmes to be predicated on an annual 3-5% increase in President Biden's defence budget doesn't tempt adversaries to test whether we buy a wider margin of safety, either by of GDP from 3.7% today) or giving the differently (such as by eliminating non-its budget).

2. Smarten up diplomacy

American diplomats are typically generalists on whom the State Department spends a fortune for language training. Instead, the country needs to hire language speakers and put the emphasis on teaching strategy: the arts of nuclear deterrence, successful negotiation and diplomatic history. Moreover, creativity should be encouraged. For example, faced with a lack of transparency in China, the American embassy started tweeting Beijing's air quality on an hourly basis, which pressed the government to take environmental policies more seriously.

3. Stop imperilling dollar supremacy

America has been lucky that, so far, the alternatives like the euro or yuan are inferior. But the rise of "secondary sanctions" (imposed on individuals and organisations outside a country under sanctions) creates incentives for the development of new payment mechanisms to skirt the dollar zone—the very system that keeps America's debt affordable. A plan to end deficit spending and exercising restraint in using the financial system as a weapon when imposing sanctions needs to be a national-security priority.



tolerated a chasm between its ambitions them: financing wars through debt and outpace funding. Its defence posture is real spending that has not materialised. even keep pace with inflation. We're can do what we say we will. It is past time to increasing military spending (perhaps to 6% Defence Department latitude to spend defence elements—like cancer research—from

7. Marwan Muasher

(Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC)

Marwan Muasher discussed America's declining influence in the Arab world by stating that America intervenes, fails, hastily departs, and leaves chaos that others must fix or live with.

Throwing light on the future of US influence in the Middle East, Mr Muasher wrote, "The end of America's "unipolar moment" was bound to come sooner or later. As its time as the sole superpower concludes, its influence in the Middle East is inevitably waning. But the process is being hastened by rapid change in what have long been the three pillars of American policy in the region: stability, Israel and oil.

He added: "The invasion of Iraq was an especially grievous blunder. The short and cost-free war, financed by Gulf countries, that would take supposed of the hands of a tyrant and, build a lasting democracy that is peaceful and the broader Middle East. These fanciful promises, based on faulty intelligence bluster, met with a cold reality. They cost America trillions of taxpayers' soldiers. The ripple effects of the failures in Iraq (and Afghanistan) left sceptical of military adventurism overseas, and of global engagement He identified the powers that are filling the vacuum created by the United States in the Arab world by saying, "Blunders, failures and market conditions, coupled with disillusionment with America's and governments alike, have meant that other countries are vacuum. Russia, Turkey and Iran have stepped in, particularly elsewhere. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and, implicitly, forged closer ties with Israel to counterbalance Iran. China flex its power through economic means, pouring significant the region for all willing to accept, no questions

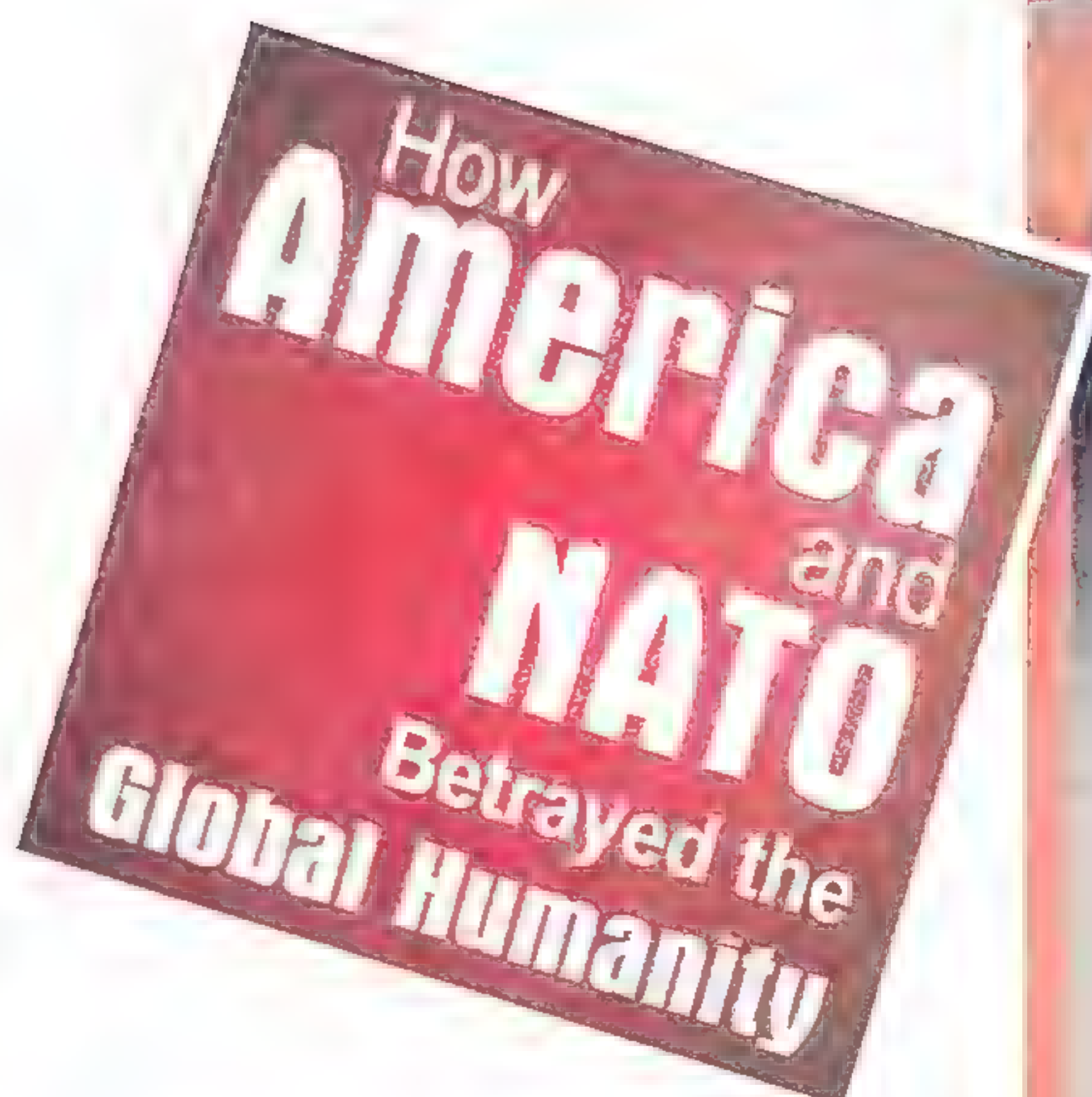
American public was promised a weapons of mass destruction out prosperous, and an example for gence and overconfident dollars and thousands of slain Americans even more in general."

declining influence of the changing energy-policies by Arab people starting to fill the in Syria, but also Saudi Arabia have has decided to cant funds into. asked." ■





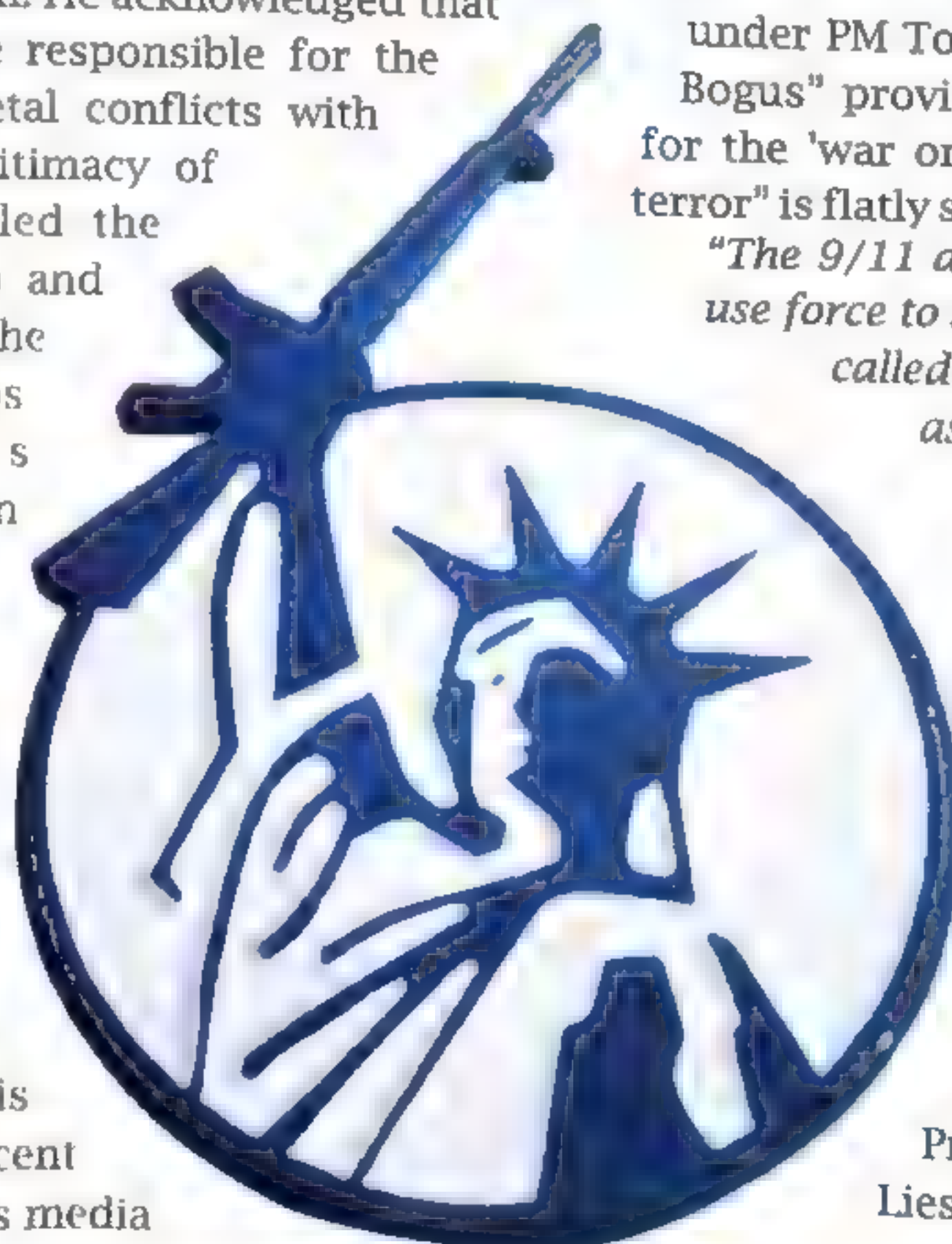
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Mahboob Khawaja, PhD



For twenty long years, US-led NATO occupied Afghanistan under the guise of peace, nation-building, democracy and strategic harmony. Lacking wisdom and forbearance, the United States and NATO became inflated with pride in their military power, and fell into crass materialism, violence and planned destruction of Afghanistan and its political destiny. On August 16, President Biden, in his speech, clarified that it was not the aim of "nation-building" or "democracy" to keep American forces in Afghanistan. He acknowledged that Afghan political leaders were responsible for the turmoil and continuing societal conflicts with massive corruption and illegitimacy of the political rule as they fled the country. American leadership and allied NATO countries blame the Taliban for the prevalent chaos and insecurity across Afghanistan. The Western media appears biased and unprepared to recognize the new Taliban administration as a legitimate transformational entity for peace and stability in the region. The myth of the Taliban as an extreme 'Islamist', 'militant' and sometimes a 'terrorist' group is kept functional in all of the recent reporting. Do the Western news media



ever describe Bush's invasion as a 'Christian Crusade' or a 'terrorist' occupation of Afghanistan? To revisit the formative history, the Western leaders deny any reference to the pathological lies and political deception engineered by George W. Bush when he invaded Afghanistan as part of the prolonged scheme of a "war on terrorism."

Michel Meacher, former British Environment Minister under PM Tony Blair in his "This War on Terrorism is Bogus" provides reliable insight into the real reasons for the 'war on terrorism'. He claims that the "war on terror" is flatly superficial:

"The 9/11 attacks gave the US an ideal pretext to use force to secure its global domination ... the so-called 'war on terrorism' is being used largely as bogus cover for achieving wider US strategic geopolitical objectives ... [i]n fact, 9/11 offered an extremely convenient pretext to put the PNAC (Project for the New American Century) plan into action. The evidence again is quite clear that plans for military action against Afghanistan and Iraq were in hand well before 9/11."

According to David Corn ("Is the President a Pathological Liar?" and "The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics

of Deception”), Bush lied and misled the American masses about the real reasoning for the invasion of Afghanistan. Recall that it was al-Qaeda (the US-sponsored and trained group) blamed by Bush for the 9/11 attack, not the Taliban. Afghanistan under the Taliban government in 2003 had no military and political capacity to threaten the United States or its security in any rational context. When nations and leaders live in darkness – away from the truth – they seem to lose any rational sense of direction and imagination. This happened to America and NATO under ongoing lies about the mission there. It is no wonder why America and NATO are fearful of the unthinkable future consequences if the truth is revealed to the global mankind. They invaded Afghanistan without any justification, dismantled its culture and values, and tortured innocent civilians and political enemies – Bagram Airbase tells all of that.



happened in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen and elsewhere. Glenn Greenwald, a prominent American journalist and lawyer, in a piece “The US Government Lied for Two Decades about Afghanistan”, (Information Clearing House) makes startling remarks:

“The pattern of lying was virtually identical throughout several administrations when it came to Afghanistan. In 2019, The Washington Post — obviously with a nod to the Pentagon Papers — published a report about secret documents it dubbed ‘The Afghanistan Papers: A secret history of the war.’ Under the headline ‘At War With the Truth,’ The Post summarized its findings:

‘Year after year, US generals have said in public they are making steady progress on the central plank of their strategy: to train a robust Afghan army and national police force that can defend the country without foreign help’.

In the Lessons Learned interviews, however, US military trainers described the Afghan security forces as incompetent, unmotivated and rife with deserters. They also accused Afghan commanders of pocketing salaries – paid by American taxpayers – for tens of thousands of “ghost soldiers.” None expressed confidence that the Afghan army and police could ever fend off, much less defeat, the Taliban on their own.”

A Peaceful Afghanistan under Taliban

One should not expect from Taliban miracles out of a country that has been systematically and politically destroyed under NATO and American occupation for 20 years. The chaos at Kabul airport was just a glimpse of what went wrong under the foreign occupation. The Taliban are in control of the whole of Afghanistan and they will, now, need planned efforts and a wide range of reconciliation efforts to settle in for viable political governance. One cannot imagine law and order to come out of nowhere in a highly chaotic situation in the wake of America's and NATO's absurdity and contradictions for a long time.

In an article titled “Stop Believing that US Military Invasions had Noble Intentions,” Caitlin Johnstone makes us believe that:

“If the US had a free press and was anything like a democracy, the government wouldn't be getting away with squandering thousands of lives and trillions of dollars on a twenty-year war which accomplished literally



The Taliban are from amongst the people of Afghanistan. They are a political organization within the geopolitical culture of that country. Their takeover of Afghanistan was politically motivated after some twenty years of struggle for gaining their lost power. If the Taliban wear their own national dress, speak their own language and adhere to Islamic thoughts and values, it does not make them terrorists or ‘Islamists’. In all perceptive eyes and rational analyses, the Taliban is a political party, not a “terrorist” entity or extremist “Islamists”, as some Western media suggests to its viewers. If they were terrorists or extremists, why would America and NATO and others engage them in peacemaking conferences and forging relationships over the decades? In pursuit of unbridled ambitions and hegemonic power, the United States and its allies enjoin wrong thinking, wrong aims and do the wrong things as it



nothing besides making assholes obscenely wealthy.

Thousands of human lives. Trillions of dollars. If Western mass media were anything remotely resembling what they purport to be, they would be making sure the public understands how badly their government just fucked them. Instead it's just "Oh no, those poor Afghan women."... I am once again asking you to stop believing US military invasions have noble intentions.

War apologists talk about "doing nothing" like that's somehow worse than creating mountains of human corpses ... [for] they had twenty years to build a stable nation in Afghanistan. Twenty years. If you believe that's what they were really trying to do there, or that results would be any different if you gave them twenty more, you're a fucking moron."

America and its belligerent allies have caused havoc in humanitarian, social, economic and political conditions in Afghanistan. The war and its consequences will not end with the US's sudden withdrawal but will leave imprints for generations to come - the innocent men, women and

children massacred and human habitats destroyed. Should America and its allies not be held accountable by the Afghan people for all the war damages? Would the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague initiate actions to hold the US, UK and others NATO members accountable for the war damages and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan and Iraq? Who would patch the wounds of torture and cold-blooded murders committed at Bagram and Guantanamo Bay prisons? Americans' strategic psyche is desperate to be seen as a winner, not a loser, in Afghanistan. Would the Taliban allow the American-NATO military plans to disrupt the future of nation-rebuilding and political stability? If America's egoism turns into cancer to consume both gimmicks, where would the wounds and warriors be buried with honour - would it be the bombed graveyards of Afghanistan or the new secret sites in America? More often wars have ended on their own after exhaustion and unworthy cause with or without political dialogues to make roadmaps for the future. Would peace and reconciliation with the Taliban usher a new era for a different kind of future and coexistence to all concerned? If mankind was looking towards ethical principles and some rational consideration to be in peace and harmony after the dreadful warfare in Iraq, Afghanistan, and drone killings in Pakistan, it is utterly dismayed with the US politicians and policymakers. Time and again, they appear to be devoid of reason and any sense of humanity and accountability for their belligerent acts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Global politics is not a system of moral principles or intellectual and political values but often an absurd game, a cruel drama, a puppet show staged to appease the few bloody Draculas. Is it but a psychopathic puzzle of few insane people who had nothing useful to contribute to mankind except drudgery, deceit, lies and deceptions? The net outcome of this thinking was the bogus 'war on terrorism'. It is unclear what is waiting for the US and NATO after shamefully leaving Afghanistan without any formal agreement or surrender to the new political realities in Kabul. "History is a weapon and tyranny is tyranny," noted late historian Howard Zinn. American intransigence in Afghanistan will not be a new exciting story in history books. ■

Dr. Mahboob Khawaja specializes in international affairs-global security, peace and conflict-resolution with keen interest in Islamic-Western comparative cultures and civilizations. He is the author of several publications including the latest: *One Humanity and the Remaking of Global Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution*. Lambert Academic Publications, Germany.

2-decade long US occupation has cost dearly for Afghanistan, world



800,000

SOLDIERS

800,000 US soldiers deployed in Afghanistan since 2001



\$2 TRILLION

The US spent \$2 trillion for military operations in the region

IN 20 YEARS OF WAR

241,000

LIVES LOST

Civilians
71,000+

444
aid workers

Over **70**
journalists

Some

3.5 MILLION AFGHANS
have become internally displaced

As the US administration prepares to withdraw the last of its troops in Afghanistan by Aug. 31, the war launched after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001 has led to scores of deaths, displacements, and a heavy financial burden

AFGHANISTAN

Kabul

US SOLDIERS

2,352



AFGHAN SOLDIERS

66,000



1,144 troops from
NATO and other countries



51,191 people from
the Taliban and
other groups

OVER 2.5 MILLION
Afghans have become refugees

Estd. 1860



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Government of **Taliban** in **Afghanistan** (After the Fall of Kabul) and the International Law

Kamran Adil



With the fall of Kabul to Taliban in Afghanistan, legal questions abound. The standard security and geopolitical lenses applicable in many such situations often treat legal questions peripherally until the clarity of facts is attained that removes the fog of ambiguities anchored in subjectivities. The present situation, as it stands on the night of 15th August 2021, impresses upon policymakers to consider the following chief international law questions having territorial connection and linkages with municipal, tribal and customary laws of the people of Afghanistan. The questions at this stage are more important than their answers because the political and legal orders have yet to formalize.

These questions are:

1. Recognition of Taliban Government

Legal status of a Taliban government is the first moot point. From international law perspective, there is no question about the recognition of the state of Afghanistan, which is acknowledged and respected by all. The question is about the political and legal government that must be formally acknowledged by the United Nations and international community. The recognition of Taliban as the legal government of Afghanistan has many implications. In the first place, it decides the plenipotentiaries that can bound the state of Afghanistan to legally-

binding obligations. A derivative of this is the diplomatic and consular status of the government. By legally recognizing Taliban government, the sanctions on organizations and individuals of Taliban will beg for revision as these will no more be 'non-state' actors, as these have often been referred to on many an occasion. As a consequence, the control of embassies and diplomatic missions of state of Afghanistan will have to be, by necessity, handed over to the Taliban government.

2. Status of Afghanistan

The status of territory of Afghanistan, in terms of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), will have to be reviewed. The IHL divides an armed conflict, depending upon its intensity, into international and non-international. Amidst the transition of power in Kabul, in which Taliban gained control over the country, the question of armed conflict emanating out of violence needs to be reassessed. This question is interlinked with legal recognition of the Taliban Government, which will upgrade its status from a non-state actor to a state entity. The violence that will be directed against a state entity will have to be viewed differently from violence against a non-state actor. This qualitative change in the status of Taliban will have far-reaching effects for the state of Afghanistan.

3. International Human Rights Law

The International Human Rights Law (IHRL) is a very important part of Public International Law in post-1991 scenario. Human rights gained ascendancy in a unipolar world led by the United States. The primacy accorded by the United States to human rights brought 'individuals' as the centerpiece of international politics against the then-

prevailing approach of treating only states and international organizations as subjects of international law. Unfortunately, the IHRL dimension is linked to municipal and national law of a country, and this fact brings to fore the significance of Afghanistan's would-be constitution as well as its would-be criminal law. The indications, as of now, are that Taliban's stated goal is to implement Shariah

(Islamic Law). Obviously, this will require legal scholars and policymakers to look at compatibility between Islamic criminal law vis-à-vis IHRL. For the last many years, Islamic criminal law has mostly been viewed through the eyes of media instead of through an assessment based on natural law principles that serve as foundation of IHRL. Nonetheless, this will emerge as one of the chief legal international law questions in the coming days insofar as Afghanistan is concerned.

4. Afghan Refugees and Drug Trafficking

Hitherto very selective about agenda of international organizations like the United Nations, the West has often invested heavily in pro-Western issues of containing refugees, asylum-seekers and human and drug trafficking to the conflict areas; Afghanistan was no exception. Any delay in recognizing Taliban as Afghan government is likely to increase pressure of refugees, asylum-seekers and human and drug trafficking on the West. The earlier the better; as the international organizations like UN, IOM, ICRC and many international non-governmental Organizations (I-NGOs) need support of the state government to operate effectively and smoothly.

The areas identified in this adumbration are by no means exhaustive. Comity of nations will have to put its act together and plan on principles of international law to enable the people of Afghanistan to self-determine their future course of action. With two world powers forced to leave the country, the message is clear: more just international legal order will lead to better political world. ■

The author is an independent researcher and has done his BCL from the University of Oxford. Email: kamranadilp@gmail.com

TALIBAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

LEADER / AMIR AL-MU'MININ



Hibatullah Akhundzada

Former Taliban Chief Justice, leader since 2016. Ultimate authority on political, religious & military affairs

INTERIM GOVERNMENT

DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar
Former head of the political office in Doha

PRIME MINISTER



Mullah Hassan Akhund
Head of the Taliban leadership (governing) council

DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER



Maulvi Abdul Salam Hanafi
Former member of negotiation team in Qatar

DEFENSE

Maulvi Muhammad Yaqoob Mujahid

DEPUTY DEFENSE

Mullah Muhammad Fadel Akhund

INTERIOR

Maulvi Sirajuddin Haqqani

DEPUTY INTERIOR

Maulvi Noor Jalal

DEPUTY INTERIOR (NARCOTICS CONTROL)

Mullah Abdul Haq

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Maulvi Amir Khan Muftaqi

DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sher Muhammad Abbas Stanikzai

EDUCATION

Sheikh Maulvi Noorullah Munir

HAJJ & AUGHAF

Maulvi Noor Muhammad Saqib

JUSTICE

Maulvi Abdul Hakim Sharaf

COMMUNICATION

Najeebullah Haqqani

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mullah Muhammad Yonus Khundzada

REFUGEES

Khalil ur Rahman Haqqani

DAWAT & IRSHAD

Sheikh Muhammad Khalid Munkar

HIGHER EDUCATION

Abdul Baqi Haqqani

PUBLIC WORKS

Mullah Abdul Manan Omar

BORDERS & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Noorullah Noori

INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa

DEPUTY INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

Zabihullah Mujahid

FINANCE

Mullah Hidayatullah Badri

CIVIL AVIATION & TRANSPORTATION

Homeedullah Akhundzada

MINERALS & PETROLEUM

Mullah Muhammad Essa Akhund

WATER & ELECTRICITY

Maulvi Abdul Latif Mansoor

HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE

Abdul Haq Wasiq

HEAD OF DA AFGHANISTAN BANK

Haji Muhammad Idrees

CHIEF OF STAFF

Maulvi Ahmad Jan Ahmadi

ARMY CHIEF

Qari Faseeh udin

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Qari Din Muhammad Hanif

1st DEPUTY INTELLIGENCE

Mullah Taj Mir Jawad

ADMIN DEPUTY INTELLIGENCE

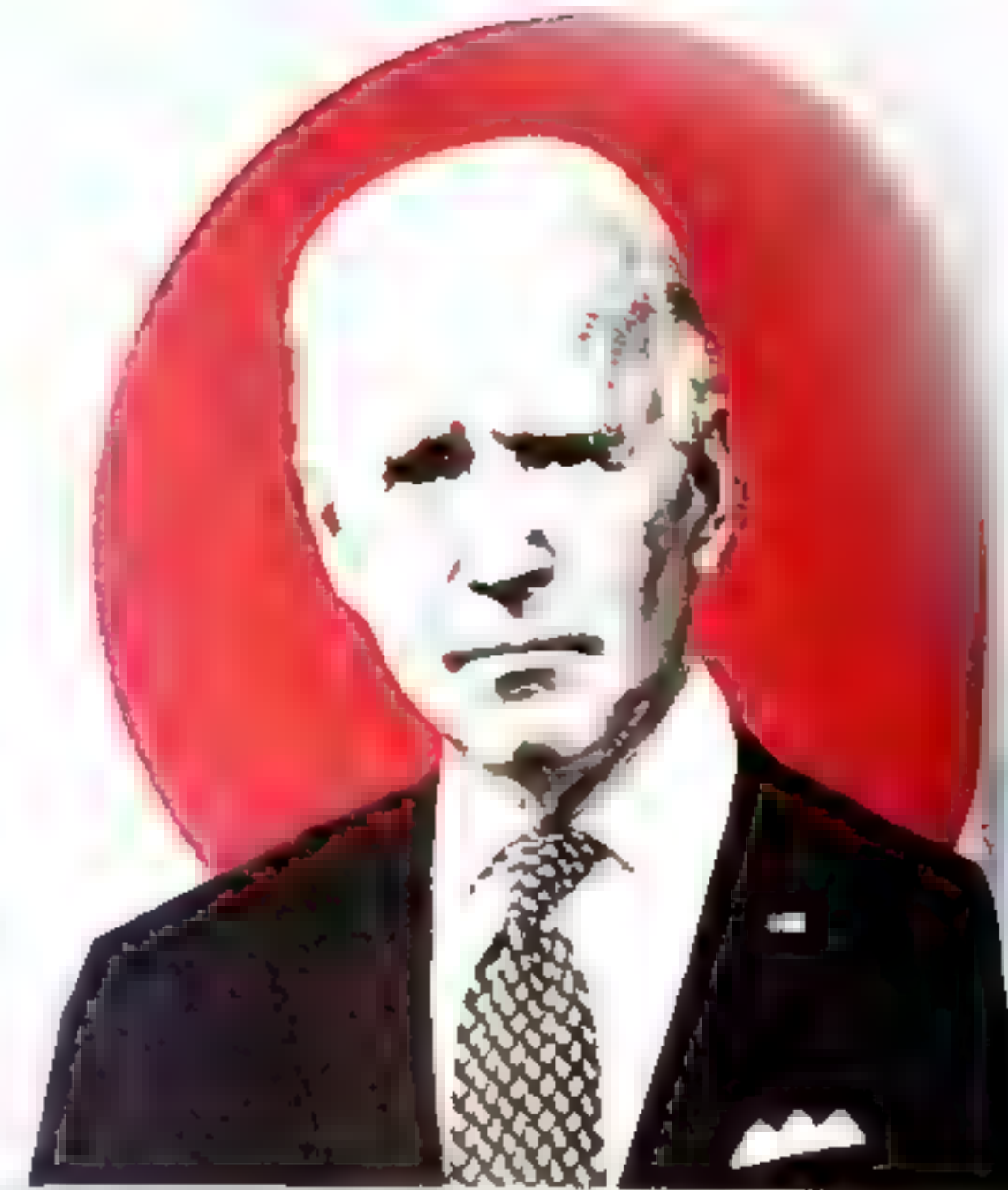
Mullah Rahmatullah Najeeb

33
Total

30
Pashtuns

2
Tajiks

1
Uzbek



US responsibilities don't end here



The histories are already being written, but for now, two moments encapsulate the closing moments of America's longest war. One was the eerie, lonely night-vision image of the last US soldier boarding the military's final flight from Afghanistan. The other came a day earlier, when a retaliatory strike targeting Islamic State reportedly claimed the lives of 10 civilians, including at least six children. Together, they convey the sense of hopelessness and waste, after almost 20 years and \$2 trillion, the carelessness which too often characterised both the US presence and its withdrawal, and the costs to Afghans.

Though Donald Trump set the clock for departure ticking, Joe Biden's timing owed more to symbolism than pragmatism. The president promised that the US military would leave before 11 September – the 20th anniversary of the al-Qaeda terrorist attacks that led the US to topple the Taliban.

Far from drawing a line under the war, the choice of date and the rushed, chaotic withdrawal have underscored its toll, most critically on Afghan lives, but also on America's standing. A country already tarnished by the ascent of President Trump and then the assault by his supporters on the Capitol on 6 January 2021 and by the disastrous response to Covid, looks further diminished, reduced to bickering with one of its closest allies over who bears more responsibility for the scores of Afghans and 13 US personnel who died in the bombing at Kabul airport. Above all, though the Biden administration talks up the achievements of its evacuation programme in airlifting more than 120,000 people, many – American citizens, Afghan allies and other vulnerable Afghans such as civil society

activists – are left there. They and the rest of Afghanistan awoke on August 17, to the new reality, with a triumphant Taliban promising a different approach while their fighters commit atrocities and rivals jockey for power.

For all the failures of the American intervention, many in Afghanistan had begun to forge a better way of life, and to hope for freedom and peace there. Many who had dedicated themselves to rebuilding their country have now fled abroad. Others cannot.

Over the last two decades, tens of thousands of Afghan civilians have lost their lives. They have suffered not only at the hands of the Taliban, but also of Afghan government forces and the US military. The US has said that it is not in a position to dispute reports that the drone strike on August 22, claimed civilian lives; what is certain is that, since 2001, both US solo and joint operations have claimed too many innocent lives without even proper acknowledgment, let alone reparation.

America's responsibilities do not end with its departure. Its first duty is to do all it can, within its very limited means, to support those still in Afghanistan. Whatever can be done to hold the Taliban to their pledges must be done. Its second duty is to take responsibility for its own actions, beginning with the latest drone strike. Accountability, honesty and restitution are required. This is all the more important as it contemplates an "over the horizon" counter-terrorism effort, aiming to tackle renewed threats in Afghanistan from afar – increasing the risks. Though the US has ended its two-decade conflict, it must not turn its back on Afghans who continue to live with the consequences.

The writer is a member of staff.





Can South Asia learn any lessons from post-WWII Germany?



Zohaib Hassan

National security and sovereignty are frequently employed as justifications of domestic/foreign policies, and act as mantras for perpetuation of hostilities. In fact, few leaders realize that over-emphasis on security or securitization of old style nationalism is an inherent sign of insecurity. More often, threats are manufactured and security is procured. Nowhere in the world have deep and abiding conflicts been able to resolve issues.

In fact, true national security springs from national well-being and is only possible with supporting vectors: healthy neighbourly relations; regional connectivity; trade and investment; and emphasis on welfarism over seeking security by mere acquisition of arms and military doctrines.

While nuclear weapons act as a safeguard against major military attack and occupation of territory, genuine national development can be assured by technology, trade and adjusting of policies from globalization, climate degradation, digitalization and diplomacy.

Today, most of the Muslim world, barring odd examples, is consumed by mutual animosities based on pseudo-nationalism and at the cost of fighting poverty, disease and illiteracy.

Many right-thinking people feel that morbid and turbo-charged nationalism leads to chauvinism and bigotry, and serves demagogues for short-term gains. The WWI, WWII and many ongoing conflicts are testimony to that verity. Now with nuclear weapons, wars could be more horrific.

Interestingly, Germany has not recused itself from global responsibilities: active involvement in climate protection; non-armament, skilful diplomacy, humanitarian assistance in accepting refugees, shoring up of economies, promoting trade and investment and development of new technologies are highlights of its policies. By fusing pragmatism with moralism, Germany has set a post-Cold War precedent.

Whereas during WW-II, German Panzer divisions roared across parts of Europe, today German banks and trading companies are involved in commerce and businesses. When needed, its peacekeeping forces were utilized under the UN or Nato framework.

Germany has avoided to meddle or jump into conflicts by sending proxy forces. For example, lately the German government rebuffed a request by the

US to send forces to Syria to mop up the remnants of ISIS forces. After the end of WWII, and 30 years following re-unification of Germany, it has not swerved from the policy of pacifism and anti-militarism.

Whether it got Nato military protection or not is not the only reason for its policies. Many countries protected by the US have remained hooked on to nationalism in their own way. Besides horrors and destruction wrought by World Wars, it was the sagacious German leadership who learnt the lessons of war.

After all, Germany is a nation of inventions, philosophers and intellectuals, but it got misguided by fascist leaders and their propaganda. But the credit goes to then Chancellor Willy Brandt, sometimes dismissed by Henry Kissinger as an 'idealist' and 'romanticist,' that war is not the "ultima ratio but the ultima irratio." After starting with healthy nationalism, Germany outsourced its security to others without acting as vassal to big powers. It did not take any part in 'out of area' deployments except mandated by UN, or European Community.

No doubt, after the 9/11, it raised the defence budget but curtailed military manpower. In 1992, it reunified with East Germany and economically helped it to stand on its feet. When the economic crisis hit Italy, Poland, Greece and Italy, it was Germany that extended economic aid.

Nations earn respect when they are givers, and not seekers, of aid all the time and only brag of their military power. Although the largest in population and size in European Community, Germany has done well in technology, trade and education. Economic clout, industrial strength, non-interference—yet healthy involvement—in global affairs, humanitarianism (acceptance of refugees), ecology and climate have earned it goodwill and respect.

It has a policy of right to 'look the other way' which many European countries while conveniently jumping on US bandwagon.

Every nation justifies its policies by citing examples from history, geographical location and peculiar circumstances but Germany holds out some object lessons.

As history shows, toxic ideologies and power-obsessed leaders have only wrought havoc and misery to their people. Perhaps, South Asian nuclear-armed nations, heir to old and rich civilizations, could learn some useful lessons from Germany. ■

Uranium Theft in India

Posing a threat of nuclear terrorism

In August this year, Indian authorities recovered four mineral-like rocks weighing 250.5gm, which are believed to be extremely expensive radioactive material californium. The seized material, if original, is approximately valued at Indian Rs 4,250 crore. Prior to this incident, on 4th June 2021, the authorities arrested seven people possessing approximately 6.4 kilograms of uranium in the eastern state of Jharkhand. An incident of the same nature was reported in May 2021 where unauthorized persons, who were trying to sell nearly 7 kilograms of natural uranium on the black market, were apprehended. Notably, Indian authorities themselves believe that these events might be linked to a "national gang involved in illegal uranium trade".

The theft of over 200 kilograms of nuclear material during last two decades in India poses serious threats of nuclear terrorism, necessitating the global powers' role to raise safety standards in the country.



Shafqat Javed



The countries in the region including China and Pakistan have time and again called for strengthening regulations following repeated incidents of theft of nuclear material in India. Such incidents raised concerns about India which has, of late, emerged as a potential hotspot in illegal trade of nuclear technology and materials vital for a malicious nuclear supply chain for state and non-state actors.

According a timeline issued by The South Asia Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), 18 incidents of nuclear material's theft and lost were reported in India from 1994 to 2021, involving over 200kg nuclear material.

The Indian authorities recovered 2.5kg uranium in 1994; 111kg in 1998, also involving an opposition leader; 59.1kg in 2000; 200 grams in 2001; 225 grams in 2003; 4kg in 2008; 5kg in 2009; 9kg in 2016; 1kg in 2018 and 13.75kg in 2021 in multiple incidents. According to a research paper jointly issued by SASSI President Dr Maria Sultan and the current Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazari, the reports of Indian involvement in the theft of nuclear fissile material dates back to the early 1970s, the magnitude of the threat increased manifold in the 1980s and 1990s.

In the late 1980s, the CIA had concluded that India was trying to develop a sophisticated hydrogen bomb. In 1994, on a tip-off, a shipment of beryllium was caught in Vilnius, worth \$24 million. "The material could fall into the hands of extremists and terrorists in India with disastrous consequences. The out-of-control material could also be a cause of concern due to the proliferation reasons. It is also the responsibility of global organisations and India's partners to raise the standard of nuclear safety and security in the country and investigate shortcomings for maintaining tight controls on nuclear and radioactive materials," said Sarman Ali, an Islamabad-based defence analyst. Pakistan had repeatedly called for thorough investigation of such incidents and measures for strengthening the security of nuclear materials to prevent their diversion.

Foreign Office spokesperson said in a recent statement that such incidents were a matter of deep concern as they point to lax controls and poor regulatory and enforcement mechanisms, as well as possible existence of a black market for nuclear materials inside India.

He pointed to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) which made it binding on states to ensure stringent measures to prevent nuclear material from falling into wrong hands.

Following the recovery of 7,100 grams of radioactive uranium by the police in Mumbai in May this year, China had called on all the countries to join treaties for non-proliferation aimed at ensuring nuclear safety. "The nuclear terrorism is the security challenge faced by the international community. All governments have the responsibilities to strengthen regulation of nuclear materials to combat nuclear trafficking to ensure the nuclear safety and security," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

At least 11 states in India have uranium reserves with Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Meghalaya recording the largest reserves of radioactive material.

Nuclear safety and security is a national matter of any state; however, against the backdrop of the potential damage, which these weapons can bring, they have become an international concern. Specifically, to an extent, where states are sometimes criticized, lauded, and sometimes rewarded for their behaviour in this realm. In this regard, India appears as an exceptional case, where the formation of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to stop such events in the future has its roots in Indian's so-called peace nuclear explosion (PNE) in 1974. Ironically, a few years down the road, the same NSG gave a waiver to India for conducting nuclear export. Moreover, India was made part of many other regimes such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement. Although, these decisions were carried out in lieu of geo-political realities, where the West regards India as a balancer against China, it gave a free hand to India. Even the US-based NTI's Report on Nuclear Security Index gives India less score in nuclear safety and security

regulations. At a time when many nuclear theft-related incidents have occurred in India in recent years, disgracefully, India still desires to become a member of NSG based on its so-called nuclear record.

To sum up the situation, the occurrence of back-to-back nuclear theft-related incidents has further exposed India's nuclear credentials and its non-adherence to international practices of nuclear safety and security. If legal bindings such as CPPNM and Resolution 1540 would not be implemented in the future by India, the South Asian stability, as well as the international security, would be undermined. Moreover, if the international non-proliferation continues to remain lenient towards states like India, the rest would likely regard the international non-proliferation mechanism not just as discriminatory but even as hoaxing. Many states might prefer to proliferate for their own interests, which would not serve the non-proliferation mechanism and regime. A very candid example is that today even after two years of the last NPT review conference, the next has not been conducted and chances are that it might not be conducted this year. □

The writer is a member of staff.



Magazine Desk

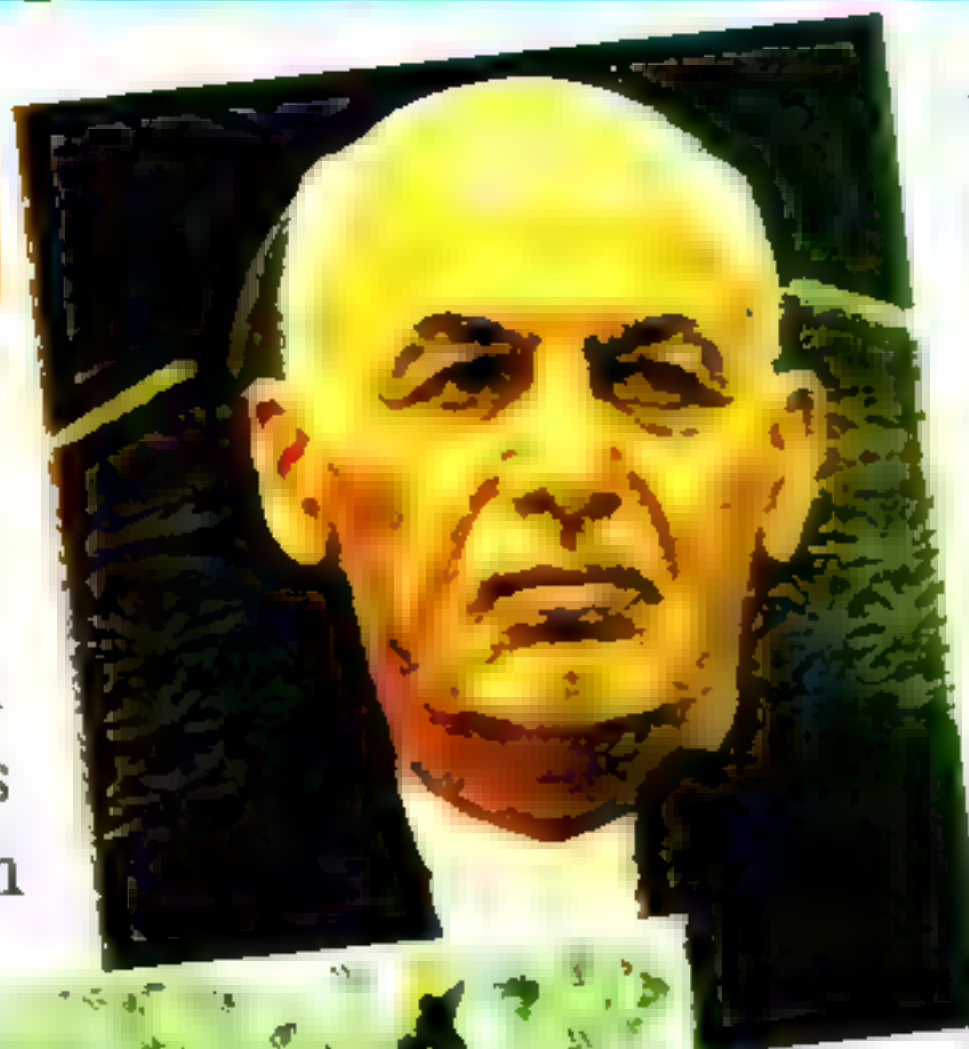
is corrupt, but most Nigerians recognise it. When especially angry, many Nigerians describe their country as a failure. But it does not really deserve that label. Yemen is a clearer example of state failure. Dozens of local groups have fought a ghastly civil war since 2014. Unlike in Nigeria, the government has completely collapsed. Some 16 million people lack enough food. Massive destruction of health services and water infrastructure contributed in 2017 to one of the worst cholera outbreaks in recent history. Efforts to curb Covid-19 are practically non-existent. Syria, too, is a failed state. There is no end in sight to its decade-long civil war. President Bashar al-Assad's regime rules the capital, Damascus. But much of the country, controlled by Islamists, remnants of the secular opposition, or Kurds, who have ambitions to secede. The economy is shattered. More than 600,000 Syrians are dead or

The term 'failed state' can be traced back to the 1990s. It was first used to describe Somalia, which crumbled into chaos after a coup toppled its dictator, Siad Barre, in 1991, and the country's clans started fighting among themselves. When fighters threatened aid workers, the United States sent troops to protect them. The Americans were then sucked into a battle in Mogadishu, the capital, that left 18 American soldiers and hundreds of Somalis dead. The Americans gave up and pulled out. Somalia heralded the start of a post-cold war trend. Political crises soon followed in Bosnia, Liberia and Afghanistan. The Soviet Union stopped aiding client states after it ceased to exist. America ceased propping up dictators solely for being anti-Soviet (though many dictators found ways to keep the dollars flowing). Without patrons with deep pockets, several regimes were toppled, and some states slid into



anarchy.

The simplest definition of a failed state is one that cannot fulfil its most basic responsibility: to provide security. If the state no longer has a monopoly on violence, everything else breaks down, from electricity to roads, schools to health care. Most people in a failed state tend to be poor, while elites tend to be predatory. What is less clear is when a state moves from "failing" to "failed". Take Nigeria. Parts seem perilously close to failure. Boko Haram, a brutal jihadist group, controls a swathe of the north-east, and the army's attempts to crush it have proven ineffective. In other regions, conflicts between farmers and pastoralists kill thousands. Yet Nigeria holds together. Elections are dirty and violent,



missing; another 13 million have fled their homes.

The Fund for Peace, an American think-tank, attempts to quantify how close a state is to failure in its annual Fragile States Index. It scores every country from "very sustainable" at best to "very high alert" at worst, based on indicators including economic decline, security apparatus, public services, and human rights and the rule of law. Yemen and Syria both landed in the "very high alert" category for 2021. So did Somalia. As for Afghanistan, before the Taliban takeover it was placed in the second-most fragile category "high alert". In Mr Ghani's book, he argued that upholding rule of law and ending violent insurgencies were two important ways to bring a failing state back from the brink. Alas, he failed. ■

Courtesy: The Economist

AUKUS

The US, the UK and Australia suddenly announced the establishment of a trilateral security partnership, called AUKUS. This is like forming an Indo-Pacific version of a "small NATO" and has caused a series of shocks. France reacted most strongly because it was robbed of the A\$90 billion submarine contract it had reached with Australia. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian publicly criticized the deal as a "stab in the back."



US picks up stone to smash its own feet

Magazine Desk

The complicated feelings of US allies go far beyond this. This new trilateral alliance highlights the Anglo-Saxon ancestry, making all other US allies strongly feel an order of distance and closeness with Washington. The Five Eyes used to be the alliance within the US' foreign alliances, and now even the Five Eyes are left with only "three eyes,"

not to mention how far behind European countries such as France and Germany would rank in the US' list.

Not long ago, the US was seriously pushing for the Quad among the US, Japan, India and Australia. But compared with AUKUS, the Quad seems to be so marginal and amounts to almost nothing. The US even shares its nuclear submarine technology with Australia, while India has been dreaming of this technology. The Quad seems to be a mechanism tailored specifically for India by the US to rope in India and make it focus on confronting China. Washington does not prepare to build up India's strength through Quad. Instead, it wants India and China to consume each other.

The term "Indo-Pacific" was rarely used in the past. But now, the US has made it the world's most popular geopolitical phrase. However, different countries have varying interests in the region, and most of them maintain close ties with China. The US has been trying many grandiose things in the region for years, but it has gained very little. For example, it cannot make regional countries reduce their economic and trade ties with China, nor can it make those countries rely on Washington's support to confront China militarily.

The forming of AUKUS at least revealed that the US lacks confidence in its strategy of widely roping in almost any country into an anti-China united front. Washington knows that strategy consumes a lot of energy, but produces very little effect. In addition, the US wants to make Australia an example of a "faithful lapdog" for others to see: Listen to everything the US says and the US will even give you nuclear submarines. Certainly, this is a very profitable process for the US.

In just a few years, the US has developed two alliances or quasi-alliance mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific region:

AUKUS and the Quad. Such flip-flopping is probably unprecedented in geopolitical history.

Washington has always put its own interests first, trying its best to play a zero-sum game with China and demanding other countries to maximize their zero-sum relationship with China. However, the US' own interests with China are complicated and are difficult to cut. There are also many countries in the middle that are living in a globalized way. Washington itself has become dizzy and worrying about gains and losses in these complicated interest relationships. With AUKUS this time, what does the US really want to do? Will this help realize Biden's goal of organizing a "unified front" against China? Look at how angry France is and how confused the EU is, especially after lingering disappointment over the US' unilateral decision to pull troops from Afghanistan. How do the two discarded "eyes," namely Canada and New Zealand, feel? And how about India, which has become more marginalized? It's really hard to say that the US alliance strategy "gets a point."

People in different societies have similar experiences: They will make substantive efforts, if something can be pushed forward. But if something cannot be pushed forward and people still want to show as if they've done something, they will play tricks. What the US wants the most right now is for all countries to decouple from China economically and confront China militarily. It cannot achieve that, so it's making great efforts in playing tricks. That's called bluffing.

The US is doomed to pay the price if it doesn't follow the laws of the globalization era, and stubbornly attempts to draw history back and start Cold War-style confrontation. The US decision to provide Australia with nuclear submarine technology has poked a big hole in the nuclear non-proliferation system, which has benefited the US and the West the most in terms of security. Washington flaunts its strength on the spur of the moment, but history will surely nail the incumbent US government's ugly move on the pillar of shame. ■

(Courtesy: Global Times)



BRICS SUMMIT 2021



Ghufran Wakee

ON

September 09, the 13th annual gathering of the world's leading emerging economies – including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (comprising the acronym BRICS) – was held virtually, due to the pandemic, for the second year running. Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi hosted the meeting that was held just days after the Taliban's announcement of an interim government in Afghanistan. Although the theme for the Summit was 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus, the discussion remained focused on the emerging situation in Afghanistan as the participants underscored the importance of preventing terrorists from using Afghan soil to stage attacks on other countries.

Leaders' Addresses

While addressing the session, Chinese President Xi Jinping, who delivered an important speech entitled "Advance BRICS Cooperation to Meet Common Challenges

Together," said that the five countries of BRICS had upheld multilateralism, participated in global governance, and have become an important power in the world that cannot be overlooked. "China has provided over 1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines to more than 100 countries and organizations, and will donate another 100m doses to developing countries by

year-end on top of the \$100m already donated to COVAX," he added. He further stated: "We need to promote global solidarity against COVID-19, join forces to tackle the pandemic, uphold a science-based approach to tracing its origins, and oppose politicization and stigmatization. We need to enhance coordination in COVID prevention and control, and boost the research, production and equitable distribution of vaccines as a global public good."

Narendra Modi, in his statement said, "We will have to ensure that BRICS yields more results in 15 years." He also said that despite Covid situation this year, over 150 BRICS meetings and events were organised. Of these, over 20 were ministerial-level. "We tried to expand

On September 09, leaders of the BRICS nations met virtually in the 13th summit of the five-nation bloc. Chaired by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the summit was attended by President Xi Jinping of China, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa. While the alliterative theme of the summit was "cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus," conversations were dominated by the situation in Afghanistan. With the US withdrawal, China and Russia have become major players in the region. And India, which has been on the sidelines, is engaging with a host of regional and global players to manage the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan.

the BRICS agenda. BRICS achieved many firsts this year ... Our water resources' ministers will meet in BRICS format for the first time in November," he said.

While the Brazilian President recalled his visit to India fondly, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that their collective response to Covid-19 has demonstrated what can be achieved when they work together. "As BRICS countries we must continue to safeguard our people's lives, livelihoods, support global economic recovery and enhance the resilience of public systems," he said.

Speaking at the opening of the summit, Putin, who was the only leader who chided the United States and its allies for the mess created in Afghanistan, said the withdrawal of the United States and its allies from Afghanistan "has led to a new crisis" and the "entire international community will have to clear up the mess as a result." "This situation," he said, "stems from irresponsible attempts to impose alien values ... To build a so-called democracy without taking into account historic features and traditions that other people have followed. It results in destabilisation and chaos and after that, the authors of this left and entire international community will have to clear up this mess."

New Delhi Declaration

After holding extensive deliberations on the situation in Afghanistan, the five-nation influential group adopted the New Delhi Declaration in which they asserted that the territory of Afghanistan must not be used to carry out terror attacks against other countries called for combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists. The Declaration stated: "We express our concern at the continuing conflicts and violence in different parts of the world. We endorse the position taken by our Foreign Ministers at their last meeting on the situation in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, the Palestinian-Israeli issue, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Afghanistan, Korean Peninsula, the Iran nuclear issue and Myanmar. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and reiterate that all conflicts must be resolved by peaceful means and through political and diplomatic efforts in line with international law, in particular the UN Charter. We underscore the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

We follow with concern the latest developments in Afghanistan. We call for refraining from violence and

settling the situation by peaceful means. We stress the need to contribute to fostering an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue so as to ensure stability, civil peace, law and order in the country. We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks near the Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport that resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. We underscore the priority of fighting terrorism, including preventing attempts by terrorist organisations to use Afghan territory as terrorist sanctuary and to carry out attacks against other countries, as well as drug trade within Afghanistan. We emphasise the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities."

Wide Chasm on Afghanistan

The differences on the Taliban in the international community were played out in the BRICS virtual summit. The careful formulation on Afghanistan contained in paragraph 23 of the joint statement, which was issued after the summit, clearly establishes the wide chasm on Afghanistan.

Such joint statements are the product of careful and



detailed diplomatic

negotiations. An attempt is always made to find - what in diplomatic parlance is referred to as "language" - formulations that are acceptable to all participants. Such formulations are meant to obfuscate differences so that a statement can be adopted. This is because the absence of a joint statement often denotes that a summit meeting has failed. Apart from the host country - which in this case was India - few member countries of a group want a summit to fail.

Paragraph 23 of the BRICS joint statement begins with the sentence, "We follow with concern the latest developments in Afghanistan." The Taliban announced their caretaker government on 7 September, that is, two days before the summit. That was the latest development in Afghanistan, but though the joint statement used the adjective 'latest' to define developments, it simply ignores the caretaker government. That can only be because India, China and Russia had such large differences over the government that no language could be found to even refer to it. ■

The writer is a lawyer.

Dismantling Global *Hindutva*

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or decades now, scholars have been studying Hindutva: from its early articulation in the works of Savarkar, where he contrasted Hindutva's muscularity with the effete-ness of Hinduism; to its adoption by groups like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and other affiliates; to the spread of its ideas into civil society; and the rise of its practitioners to political power, making it the de facto ideology of the current Indian state. Moreover, the rise of militant Hindu groups in India and the corresponding escalation of violence against religious minorities and other marginalized communities are well documented facts. International attention has also been directed at the exclusionary Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 pushed through by the ruling Hindutva-

Naveed Iqbal
aligned Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the aggressive crackdown on all forms of democratic dissent, and the intimidation and imprisonment of journalists, human rights groups and activists working to empower marginalized caste and tribal communities. This overall erosion of democratic practices and freedoms in India has been noted by global research networks.

It was in this backdrop that hundreds of intellectuals from around the world, with the support of scores of American universities and faculties, came together virtually for a three-day online conference. At the conference, the intellectuals hoped to canvass support in the US to help tame the insidious network of expatriate Indian groups which are linked to the ruling party in New Delhi, the BJP, which with the help of its various affiliate groups, been adept



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Recently, an online international conference titled 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' was organized by departments and centers of 40+ universities. This three-day online conference from 10 to 12 September was the first academic attempt initiated by academia to understand the undercurrents of Hindutva and its impact on Western societies including Western campuses of renowned universities including Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, University of Chicago, and Berkeley. Over 600 academics across the world attended the online event.

at building connections with the vast Hindu diaspora, particularly in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Moreover, in the name of Hindutva, it has instituted discriminatory policies including beef bans, restrictions on religious conversions and interfaith weddings, and the introduction of religious discrimination into India's citizenship laws. These measures have led to a horrifying rise in religious and caste-based violence, including hate crimes, lynching and rapes directed against Muslims, non-confirming Dalits, Sikhs, Christians, Adivasis, and dissident Hindus. Women of these communities are specially targeted. During the moot, participants expressed their concerns that Hindutva is fast becoming a global phenomenon and Western universities are also not safe from its influence among South Asian students. They were of the view that hatred is being generated by the Hindutva narrative and this is not against any religion rather against humanity because this philosophy places Hindutva as a vehicle, and the message is actually the supremacy of Brahmin Varna over any human. Most speakers were of the view that in the Western world, Hinduism was promoted as a culture rather than a religion during the last half a century but now it has changed its face as a

brutal and extremist religious monster that wants to kill everybody except Brahmins. Speakers of the conference were of the view that the term Hindutva is a strategy based on violence, hatred and terrorism. It is an enemy to democracy and has been targeting freedom of speech since the BJP came into power. Several cases of harassment of journalists were cited by speakers and participants. Hindutva wants to change the outlook of followers to see the world with only Hindutva extremist ideology. This purist approach is contrary to basic human rights ensured by the modern world to people. Hindutva has a history of ill-treatment of women, zero respect for transgender rights, minority



exploitation, and extreme policies towards Muslims, Christians, Jews and non-Brahmins. It violates the basic fundamental rights of everybody who is not Brahmin. The conference highlighted that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is promoting Hindutva. Motivated by the Nazi ideology, its regulatory



principle is to transform India from a secular democracy to a Brahmin state where Muslims, Christians and other religious minorities are demoted to the position of second-class citizens. Speakers were of the view that Hindutva is a political philosophy styled after European fascism of the early twentieth century, an ideology that privileges a cult of personality and authoritarian leadership. ■

Security Challenges for the Central Asian Countries

Main threats to the security of the Central Asia



International terrorism



Activation of radical Islamism and terrorism



Migration and refugees



Interethnic contradictions and ethnic separatism



Territorial disputes and border conflicts



Economic lag of the countries of the region

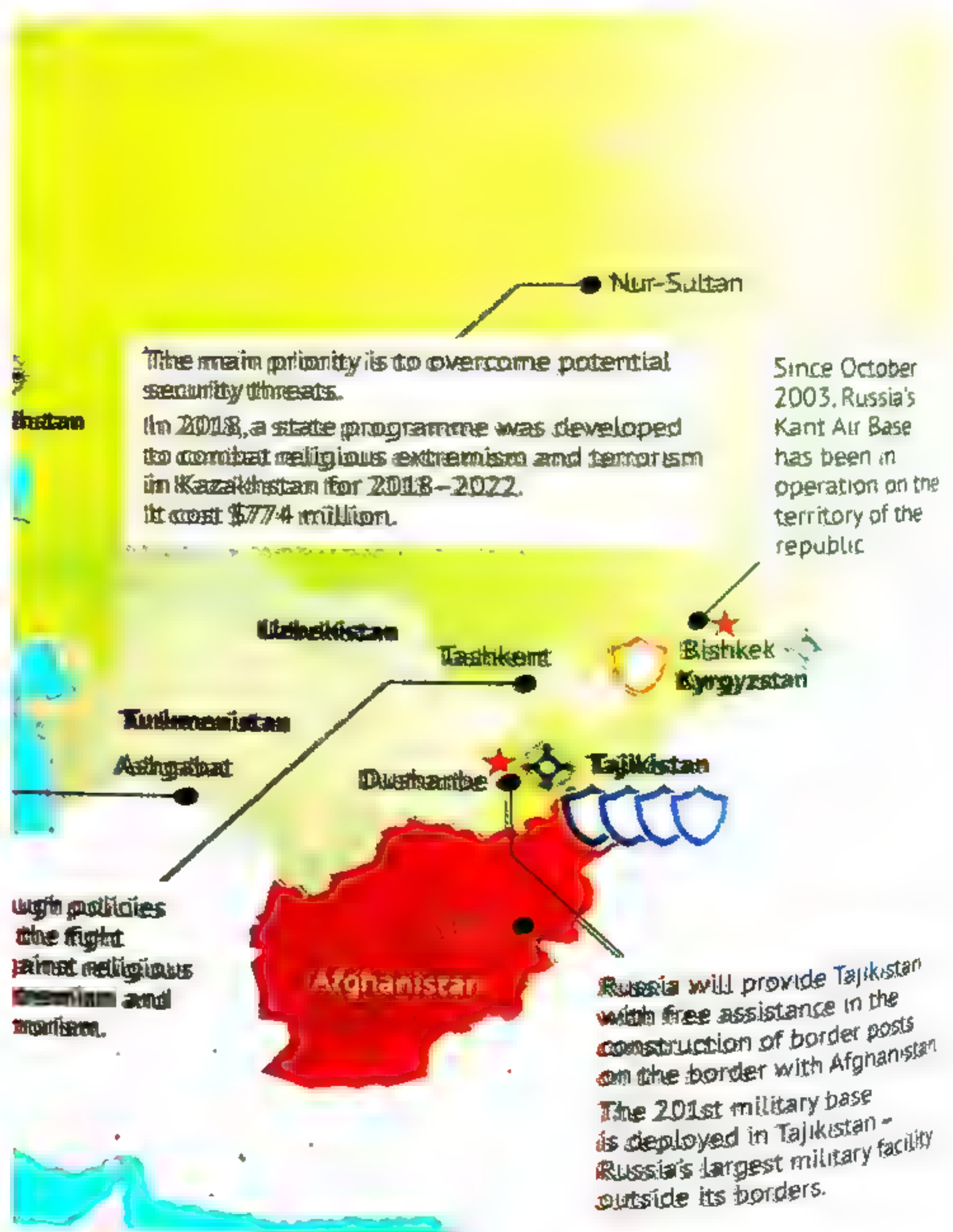
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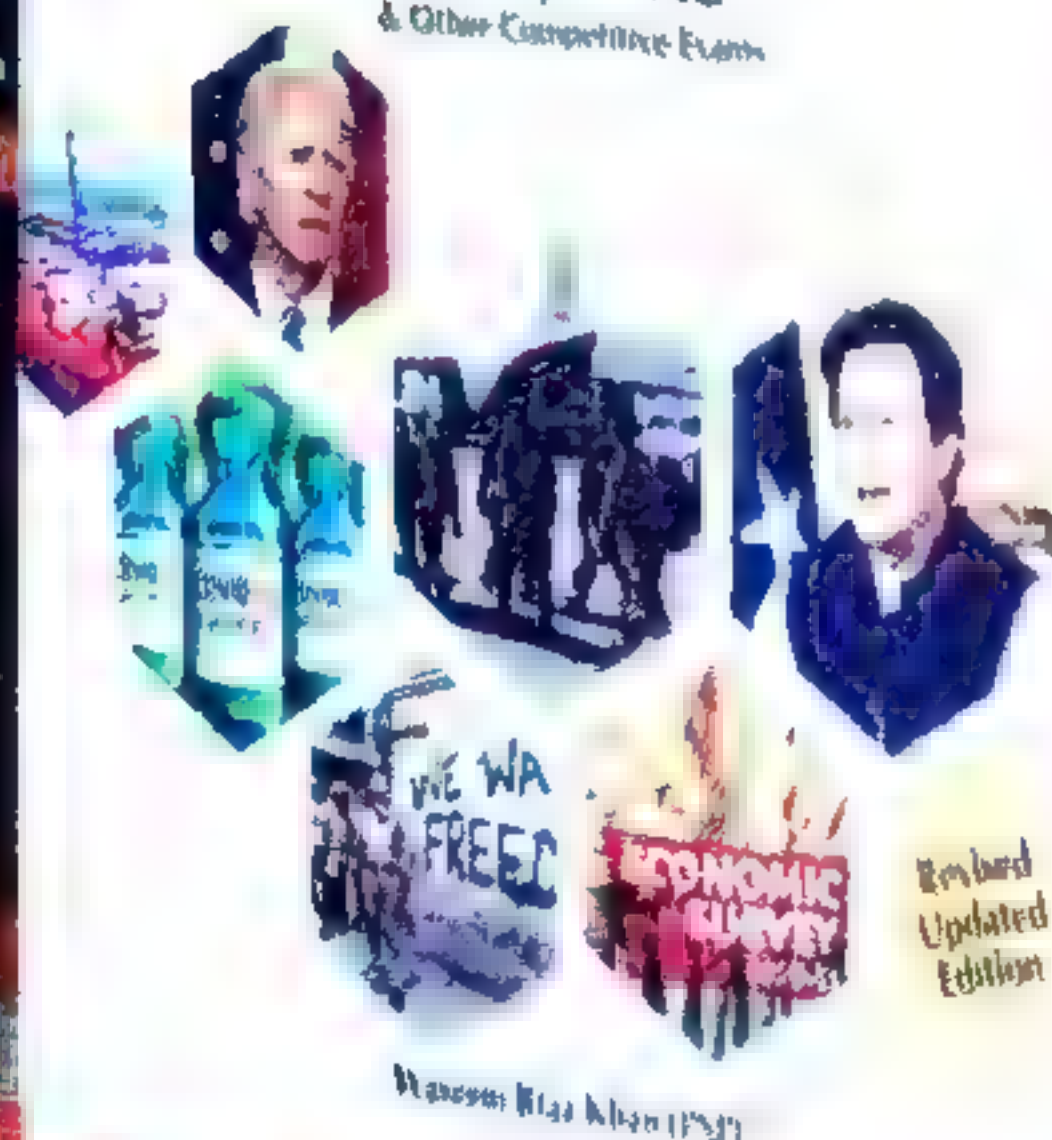
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Amidst the severe liquidity crisis, the entire governance structure is on the verge of crumbling.

Almost half the Afghan population is food-insecure with hundreds of thousands internally displaced. As the deplorable situation takes an ugly turn in Afghanistan, the world has the audacity to feign ignorance, showing fatigue and lack of interest, especially of the kind warranted by the dire circumstances. With this sorry state of affairs in view, it is now left to Pakistan to make a case for global engagement with Afghanistan. Pakistan's efforts are geared towards reminding the international community of its responsibility towards the Afghan people. Islamabad has impressed upon the key capitals the need for adopting fresh perspectives on Afghanistan. The major talking points being emphasized by Pakistan are related to the usefulness of peace in Afghanistan being critical to securing borders, eliminating the threat of terrorism, creating conditions for the dignified return of the Afghan refugees, ensuring economic stability, improving the living standards of the people and strengthening regional development and connectivity. Pakistan hosted the first Ministerial meeting of the

A couple of months after the Taliban fought their way back into Kabul rather effortlessly, the situation in the war-racked country continues to remain uncertain. A serious humanitarian crisis is in the making, as underlined by the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees after his three-day visit to Kabul. He has warned the world of a human tragedy waiting in the wings if the concerted global action is not initiated to avert it.

Amanat Ali Chaudhry

regional countries to craft a consensus on the way forward. Likewise, our intelligence chief has been in touch with his counterparts from the friendly countries with stakes in Afghanistan and led discussions on the fluid security situation. These initiatives are important in the sense that they underline the need for multilateral engagement to help stabilize Afghanistan. At the same time, the Pakistani leadership has made it clear to the world that the failure to act will not just be catastrophic but a return of the 1990s following the withdrawal of the USSR.

With the installation of an interim Taliban cabinet, the process of government formation has marked a step forward in pursuit of returning Afghanistan to some semblance of normalcy. Mainly consisting of the old guard Taliban leaders many of whom have been on the UN terror list, on the face of it, the new Afghan cabinet inspires little confidence.

Those who pinned their hopes on the 'reformed' Taliban to have learned their lessons and walked the talk are a bit dismayed at the composition of the new government. It is mainly Taliban-dominated and does not have an inclusive and broad-based representation from other political tribal and ethnic groups, as well as women.

he fact that the newly announced set-up is interim in nature that has been put together to deliver essential governance and stop chaos from persisting still inspires hope in the final governance model being more representative and inclusive. As the world prepares itself to come to terms with the post-America, Taliban-led Afghanistan, a much-detested scenario not long ago, Pakistan stays engaged with the new rulers in Kabul to facilitate the evacuation of thousands of foreigners including journalists. Pakistan's embassy remains the busiest foreign mission, frequented by those looking to avoid uncertainty and insecurity in a war-torn country. The events of the past few months have placed Pakistan's Afghan policy at the heart of global discourse. The beeline of the foreign ministers and other key officials visiting Islamabad to hold talks with the Pakistani authorities in the wake of the changed Afghan landscape represents the recognition of Pakistan's central role as a stabilizing force in the region. At a broader level, it also acknowledges the efficacy of Pakistan's consistent position on the Afghan imbroglio.

Without Pakistan's effective role, the Doha peace agreement would neither have been concluded that created conditions for the United States to end its 20-year-old combat mission nor evacuation would have taken place at such a massive level after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

Consumed by rage after 9/11, as the United States prepared for an attack on Afghanistan for housing Osama bin Laden, Pakistan advised restraint and impressed upon Washington the need to find ways to hunt down Al-Qaeda that was considered responsible for the 9/11 attacks. Inherent in this sensible advice was a recommendation to the US to politically engage the Taliban as a legitimate stakeholder.

Had the Bush Administration heeded to this piece of advice back then, the US would not have had to cut and run from Afghanistan today and fought the longest war in its history at such a high cost to its global prestige.

Pakistan's Afghanistan policy has been informed by an experience of the past forty years as well as the hard realities of a country that is globally known as the 'graveyard of empires. From PM Imran Khan to FM Qureshi to Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry, the Pakistani leaders have been emphatic in highlighting the need for a political solution to the Afghan conflict.

At the heart of this policy has been a consensus between the Pakistani civil and military leadership that a military solution will fail to bring about lasting peace in Afghanistan and will invariably be followed by more bloodshed, strife and protracted fighting.



In addition to helping the US-Taliban negotiations become successful, Pakistan worked with friends and allies as part of various regional peace initiatives to allow for a peaceful and rules-based transfer of power, duly agreed to by the Afghan parties.

Be it Extended Troika consisting of the US, China, Russia, and Pakistan, or Russia- and China-led dialogue process or any other peace endeavour, Pakistan has been at the forefront of these disparate peace efforts. Despite Ghani administration's often scathing criticism aimed at holding Islamabad responsible for its own failures, Pakistan did not shy away from working with Kabul to provide a push to an intra-Afghan peace and reconciliation process. In the event of the Taliban's takeover, Pakistan has joined the international community in calling for an inclusive government in Afghanistan, knowing well the consequences of failure on this count as the foremost neighbouring country.

As a responsible member of the international community, Islamabad has also impressed upon the rulers in Kabul the need for stopping the Afghan soil from being used for terrorism against the regional countries.

The reference here is to the renewed threat posed by the TTP-led terror syndicate to peace and stability in Pakistan. Scores of terrorist incidents in recent months have



Neighbouring countries took in the highest number of Afghans in 2020

Countries with the most Afghan refugees and asylum seekers



witnessed an uptick in violence, and these attacks have clear TTP signatures around them.

Pakistan's Afghanistan policy has also sought to advocate global engagement by highlighting the interests of the Afghan people. The international community has rightly been warned of the consequences of its apathy if an unfolding humanitarian crisis is not managed through greater collaboration and synergy of

actions.

Amid reports of depleting food and medicine stocks in Afghanistan, Pakistan is the first country to send three planes carrying foodstuff and other direly-needed items of use. It also flew a PIA cargo flight to deliver WHO medicines in Mazar-e-Sharif. The country has offered to establish an air corridor to allow the smooth flow of international aid.

Pakistan's call for global action to help the Afghans is also evidenced by the lessons of history when the world left Afghanistan to fend for itself after the withdrawal of the USSR. This country had to bear a heavy brunt in the form of an influx of three to four million refugees who fled Afghanistan in search of physical security. According to the UNHCR, Pakistan still hosts 1.4 million Afghan refugees in addition to an almost equal number of the same who are not registered.

The travails of the Afghans are real. They have been at the receiving end of whether it is a civil war or a global 'war on terror' over the last four decades. Their lives, livelihoods and future have been destroyed beyond repair.

The world's dismissal of and antipathy towards the Taliban should be no reason to hold back and ignore the common Afghans who face an uncertain future with a long and harsh winter ahead. The abandonment of the people of Afghanistan, yet again, will lead to the swelling of the ranks of terror outfits such as Al-Qaeda, IS-K, ETIM, etc.

The regional countries have a special responsibility to explore ways and means to alleviate the hardships of the Afghans through timely provision of aid. They can either work under the UN system or set up their own arrangement to deliver assistance.

Pakistan's Afghan policy is pivoted around the goal of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. This interest in peace and stability is informed by the consequences of the Cold War as well as the US-led war on terror. Given Pakistan's myriad security challenges, it does not afford to have a running conflict on its western border. More so is the case when the situation on the Indian border remains volatile. The recent peace overtures launched by Islamabad have failed to elicit any kind of reciprocity from India.

Backdoor diplomatic engagement notwithstanding, there is little hope that New Delhi can break the mould to give peace a solid chance. Modi's politics remains firmly embedded in an anti-Pakistan agenda wherein pursuing peace is considered a weakness.

With the Indian-held Kashmir bearing the brunt of Modi's fascism, Pakistan does not have any incentive to engage India more than it has already done. The US has clearly thrown its weight behind New Delhi in what is patently a China-containment policy and is not expected to act as a neutral peace broker for rapprochement between the archrivals.

Given Pakistan's close and multifaceted cooperation with China, Islamabad is sure to get caught in the crosshairs of this fierce competition. Hence all the more reason for Pakistan to do everything possible to stabilize things on its western border.

Pakistan's Afghan policy is aware of the challenges on its eastern border and is geared towards protecting the country's vital economic, political and strategic interests. The joint statement issued at the conclusion of the recently concluded Foreign Minister's meeting on Afghanistan endorses Pakistan's position and is an effort at evolving regional consensus.

The world's response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is not up to the challenge. The donors' conference arranged by the UN Secretary-General in Geneva did succeed in getting commitments to the tune of \$1.1 billion. However, the needs are multifaceted and growing. This amount will not be enough beyond protecting the civic infrastructure from collapsing for the time being.

The international community needs to think hard about finding ways and means to provide a financial cushion to the Afghan government. The key step in this regard is to unfreeze the assets of the Afghan people. This will be a solid confidence-building step. There is a lot of merit in Pakistan's contention regarding Afghanistan. It is high time the world listened to it to avoid the repeat of past mistakes. ■

The writer, a Chevening scholar, studied International Journalism at the University of Sussex and is a regular contributor to The News
Email: amanatchpk@gmail.com, Twitter: @Amanat222



Pakistan, the reaction to the return of the Afghan Taliban to Kabul has ranged from joy and satisfaction to fear. On Pakistani social media, there was a clear division in views as a majority (Group A), which comprises mostly those segments of society that are opposed to anti-government, pro-status quo, anti-Pakistan ideology and anti-intelligence/security agencies propaganda, believe in Pakistan's potential and have a religious tendency, showed happiness. On the other hand, a few people (Group B) reflected disappointment. They have their own reasons for not celebrating the Taliban's victory. They equate Afghan Taliban with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and consider both

entities two segments of a single tribe. A smaller segment within Group B also base their unhappiness and uneasiness due to sectarian preferences.

The response of the Government of Pakistan, however, has been between these two extremes. Pakistani authorities are satisfied that Kabul is no longer under the control of a government that was hostile to Pakistan and was engaged in global propaganda against us. So, this change in Kabul has given Pakistan some diplomatic relief. However, there are still issues that are of concern to Pakistan.

The unofficial response from Pakistan reflects the diversity of characteristics of Pakistani politics and society. Religious circles that have a liking for the Taliban are very happy with their success. They see it as a

Brief social media scanning during a few days after the takeover of Kabul by Taliban reflected a strange trend. The world was viewing Taliban's victory a win for Pakistan more than Pakistanis themselves. At home, the issue displayed a clear division in views where a majority showed vibes of happiness while few reflected dejection. Talking of averages, most Pakistanis are happy on the recent developments in Afghanistan. Although the majority of Pakistani public do have a sympathetic view of Taliban as they reflect a certain religious tint, a perception of ragtag soldiers fighting the most advanced military might of the world, an equation not in the favour of the under dogs. In the following write-up, the author has discussed social response within Pakistan to Taliban's victory in Afghanistan.

Taliban's Return to Power

Social Response in Pakistan



gift from God to those who had an unflinching faith in Allah Almighty, and the triumph of religious truth have remained steadfast despite the problems of the past twenty years. They are confident that the Taliban will succeed in establishing a stable government in Afghanistan that will be an example of what a true Islamic state should be.

Some people have expressed their joy on Taliban's victory just because it was another serious blow to the mighty United States of America. It is important to mention here that the United States invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban government in October 2001, in retaliation for the 9/11 attacks. To that end, the United States had formed a global coalition that would help it succeed militarily. However, despite twenty years of huge military presence and unbridled use of force, the US failed in eliminating the Taliban and installing a stable government there. It could not even establish an alternative political and social order due to two major reasons:

First, it adhered to the values and the principles that were alien to the Afghan society; and second, it had relied completely on an artificially-created segment of that society. This included a select section of Afghan citizens and locals repatriated from the West who believed that the United States would never leave Afghanistan, thus providing them with a permanent umbrella to maintain their dominance in this war-ravaged country.

India has also been trying to strengthen its position in Afghanistan to advance its regional agenda on the basis of two assumptions.

Its first assumption was that the United States would withdraw from Afghanistan after making India a major player in the country's affairs. Second, Indian authorities assumed that the Kabul administration, with its Afghan National Army and police that have been trained and equipped by the United States and NATO, would never allow the Taliban to succeed. Both assumptions, however, proved wrong.

The US's failure in building a new Afghanistan depicts the fact that brutal military power does not guarantee political success. This is also the latest evidence of the decline of American power and its waning role in world politics.

Those in Pakistan who take a keen interest in global and domestic politics are also happy that the anti-Pakistan government in Kabul, which was first led by Hamid Karzai and then Ashraf Ghani, has finally been ousted. The Ashraf Ghani-led government was creating a bogeyman out of Pakistan just to cover up its failures in coping with the increasing pressure of the Taliban.



In this sinister campaign against Pakistan, the Ghani administration had full support of the Indian government, which has nefarious aims to advance its regional agenda and advance the proxy war against Pakistan by providing funds and technical and logistic support to the TTP and such other anti-Pakistan groups. The Kabul government was like a volunteer partner in anti-Pakistan activities because of India's hostility to Pakistan, while India also provided technical assistance and resources for Afghanistan's economic reconstruction. This led to an increased presence of Indian officials and commercial and technical entities, including undercover security and intelligence officers, in Afghanistan.

Nonetheless, some political circles in Pakistan have expressed their concerns

over the return of the Taliban. They believe that the Taliban will eventually create a conservative political and social system that will never tolerate dissent. They think that the Taliban will eventually return to the political system they imposed on Afghanistan in the 1990s, having negative implications for Pakistan, which is a multi-ethnic society in terms of race, language and region. They want the government to keep a close eye on the situation in Afghanistan and take all possible precautionary measures to prevent the spread of extremism while also maintaining a safe distance from the Taliban.

Some people opposed to the Taliban have come up with a sensational idea of what is happening in Afghanistan. Referring to the policies of the Taliban government from 1996 to 2001, they believe that Afghanistan will once again sink into social and cultural "darkness" and "chaos". They argue that a policy of denial of human rights, especially women's rights, will be adopted in Afghanistan, which will have a negative impact on Pakistan in the domains of democracy and human rights. The diverse response in Pakistan to the political changes in Afghanistan is understandable, as Pakistanis have the freedom to express their views on political and security

Afghanistan in the 1980s and 1990s can be seen in Pakistani society even today. So, there is a need to cautiously monitor the situation in Afghanistan at the official and non-official levels. The authorities in Pakistan must judge the Taliban not on their words but on actions. The statements of the current Taliban leadership give an idea that they will form an all-inclusive, comprehensive government that will stick to the principle of modern governance. However, there should be little doubt that the system they will introduce will be based on religion and will also reflect the experiences they have gained over the last 20 years, including their direct



developments in and around Pakistan. Different political parties and groups are free to take competitive positions on political issues affecting the country. Another reason for Pakistanis' keen interest in Afghanistan is that their country and society have suffered a lot because of the developments in Afghanistan. When Noor Mohammad Tarakai staged a pro-Soviet uprising against the Dawood government in April 1978, it did have an impact on Pakistan. The effects of the developments in

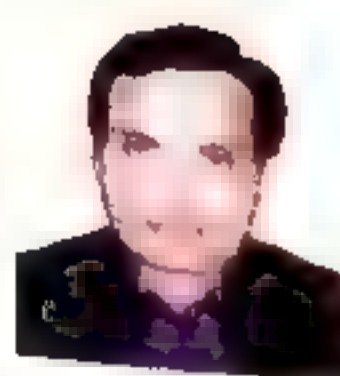
engagements with the United States, China, Russia, Turkey and Central Asian states through the Doha office. This interaction is in addition to that with Pakistan and Iran. Taliban are aware of the global concerns about them and will try to alleviate those. So, they should be given time to improve their attitudes. The Taliban can succeed this time only if they act as a state that is connected to the global system - rather than a movement. The real test will be how the Taliban build

relationships with other states, especially the neighbours, and how much attention they pay to global concerns about the activities of international groups involved in violence and terrorism in Afghanistan.

Encouragingly, the Taliban have, to date, wrecked all analyses and fears of civil war, genocide, fierce fighting and mass killings (equally feared by Pakistan) as they entered Kabul. With general amnesty to civil servants and announcements ensuring peace and safety for residents, they have signalled a new policy. We can hope that victors of Kabul will not only live up to the expectations of the world of being a Reformed Taliban, but will also ensure a peaceful, stable, progressive and friendly Afghanistan towards its neighbours. ■

The writer is a member of staff.





Bilal Hassa

A taxpayer may compute total income for the tax year while filing the declaration to this effect. Total income is sum of all incomes under various heads of income. A taxpayer may have total income only under the head salary. If a taxpayer has income from salary as well as from property during the tax year, the total income will be sum of income from the heads salary and property. Similarly, if a taxpayer has income from business, property, capital gains or other sources, then total income will be income from all these heads. If a taxpayer has paid zakat, workers' welfare fund or workers' participation fund during the tax year, (s)he is

has to deposit the difference.

However, Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, is not so simple. Not all taxes withheld at source are to be adjustable and refundable. There are three kinds of withholding taxes in the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, viz. normal or adjustable withholding taxes, minimum withholding taxes and final withholding taxes. If all taxes withheld at source are adjustable and exceed tax payable on taxable income, the amount of tax withheld at source over and above tax payable is refundable to the taxpayer. If tax withheld at source is minimum tax under the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, and

The Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, empowers taxpayers to file declarations based on their own assessment of annual financial affairs. Such self-assessed declarations are deemed as assessment orders issued by the Commissioner, Inland Revenue. Nevertheless, the tax authorities may disturb such assessment orders by following systematic procedure of audits as prescribed under the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, and the Income Tax Rules, 2002, and are also established through the judgements of the appellate authorities. The basic question remains: whether self-assessed filed declarations are always true? This article is an attempt to illustrate the potential misuse of self-assessment scheme in a bid to claim bogus tax refunds.

Bogus Tax Refund Claims through Self-Assessed Declarations

allowed to subtract that contribution from total income to work out taxable income. Tax on taxable income is to be calculated by applying the prescribed rate of tax given in the Schedules of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. This tax amount may be more or less than the amount of tax withheld at source during the tax year. Normally, if tax withheld at source is greater than the due amount of tax on taxable income, the excess tax is refunded to the taxpayer. If tax withheld at source is less than the tax computed on taxable income, the taxpayer

more than the tax payable on taxable income, no refund on account of minimum tax is due to the taxpayer. If tax withheld is final tax, the taxpayer has to pay tax on taxable income. Taxpayer cannot claim credit of final tax against tax payable on taxable income and hence there will be no question of refund of tax on account of final tax.

A taxpayer may manipulate self-assessment scheme and may claim bogus refund through self-assessed declarations as illustrated below:

AUDIT

Example 1: A taxpayer may, in the tax returns e-filed for a tax year, claim tax deducted under sections 148 and 153(1)(a) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, as adjustable, which resulted in refundable income tax. However, as per audited accounts e-filed for that tax year, the taxpayer's principal business activity is of trading. In the taxpayer-registration profile, the taxpayer has declared business activity as other service activities and not manufacturer. Tax deductions at source under sections 148 and 153(1)(a) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, are adjustable if the taxpayer is a manufacturer as per sections 148(7) and 153(3) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. The taxpayer has tried to defeat the self-assessment scheme to create refund of tax deducted under sections 148 and 153(1)(a) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, which was full and final discharge of tax liability of the taxpayer.

Example 2: Another taxpayer, a private limited company, engaged in the business of manufacturing of chemical

tax return for tax year and claimed refund of the said tax. As per audited accounts e-filed for tax year 2020, the taxpayer company has declared 2 employees. Therefore, the taxpayer company was not an industrial undertaking in terms of section 2(29C) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, for tax year and due to this reason, the taxpayer company was not entitled to claim credit of tax deduction u/s 148 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, which was minimum tax in terms of section 148(7)(a) of the ITO 2001.

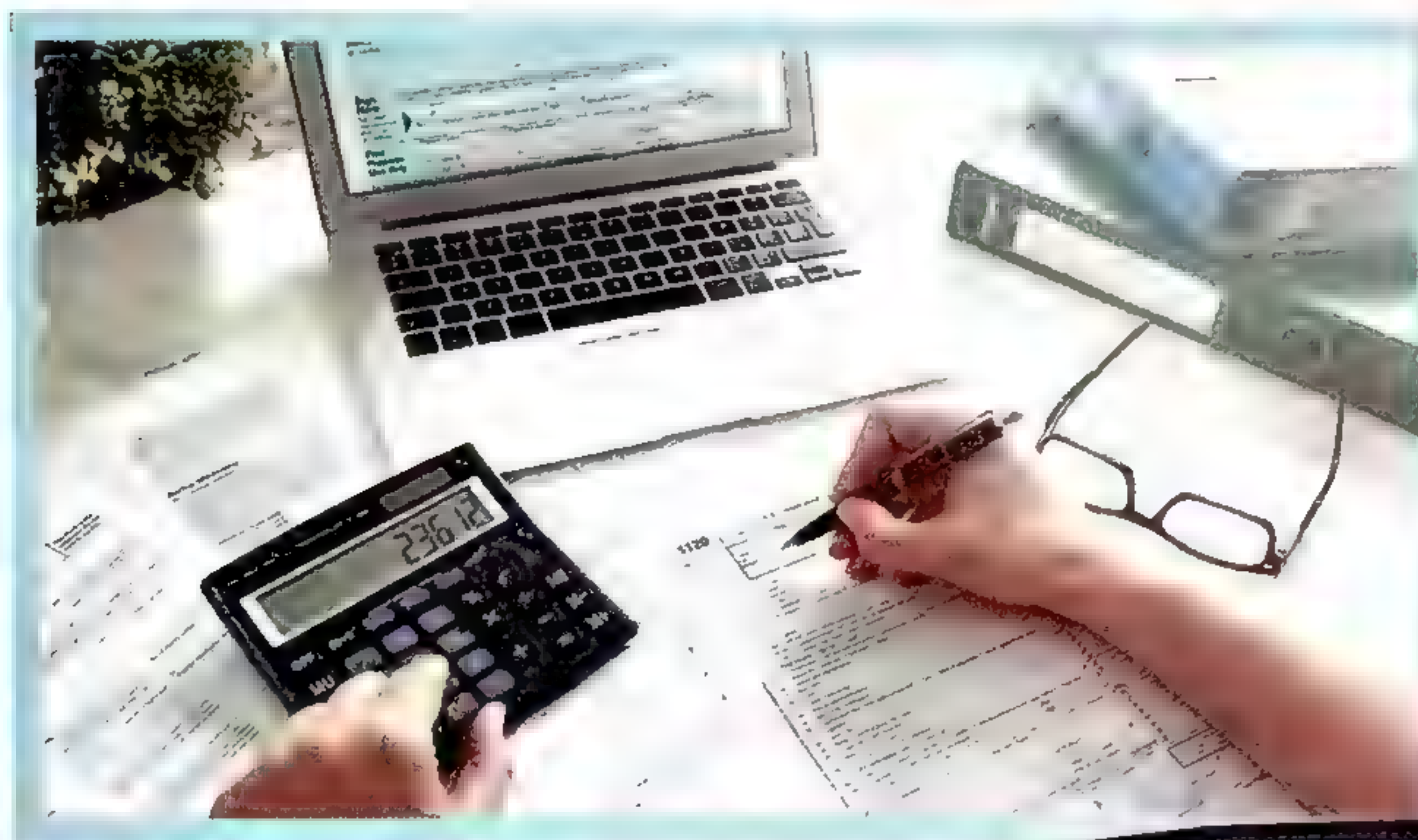
Example 4: The taxpayer company has claimed refund on account of tax deductions under section 148 of the ITO 2001. The taxpayer company has made huge imports but has not declared any significant corresponding turnover/supplies. Whereas sub-section (7) of section 148 (before amended by Finance Act 2020) provides that "the tax required to be collected under this section shall be minimum tax on the income of the importer arising from the imports subject to sub-section (1) and this sub-section shall not apply in the case of import of raw

material, plant, machinery, equipment and parts by an industrial undertaking for its own use."

Example 5: A taxpayer revised tax return for tax year to claim tax deducted under section 148 as adjustable. However, perusal of GDPs reveals, the tax deducted on imports was final/minimum and the taxpayer company was not entitled to claim such tax as adjustable. ■

*The author is serving as
Additional Commissioner
Inland Revenue at
Federal Board of
Revenue, Pakistan.*

*He can be
contacted at
bilal.hassan@
fbr.gov.pk*



products, filed income tax returns for a tax year. The taxpayer may not charge minimum tax under the provisions of section 113 of the income Tax Ordinance, 2001, for the tax year to maximize refund.

Example 3: As per audited accounts e-filed for tax year, the taxpayer, a private limited company, incorporated with the primary object to set up steel and re-rolling and to carry on business of iron founders, has filed statement of final taxation under section 115(4) for the tax year 2019 wherein tax deducted under section 148 as final discharge of tax liability. However, the taxpayer has e-filed income





Agriculture has a very strong forward linkage with industries as it provides raw material for textile, leather and other sectors. It has also very robust backward linkage with downstream industries by consumption and utilization of various chemicals (pesticide, insecticide, fertilizers, etc.) and mechanical inputs (tractors and other agri-implements). In addition, public infrastructure investment in on-farm and off-farm sectors tremendously helps in creating employment and checking highly pernicious rural-urban migration of labour and population.

This huge strategic significance of agriculture for Pakistan's socioeconomic and political development warrants holistic reforms in order to have inclusive and equitable prosperity of our homeland.

Realization of the fullest potential of agriculture is being constrained by multi-faceted and multi-dimensional bottlenecks. Policy and administrative neglect, shrinking arable land due to urbanization and desertification, worsening water shortage, large-scale population and labour migration to cities – in effect, persistent labour shortage – changing precipitation

patterns, weather shifts and inflationary pressure on inputs in the form of higher input cost, stagnant cereal and cotton yield, rapidly diminishing soil fertility and productivity, salinity and waterlogging, shrinking of landholding caused by inheritance-caused fragmentation, defective marketing system and resultant price distortions and glut formation, declining efficiency of public irrigation infrastructure, inadequate credit facilities and poor coordination between research, teaching and extension services of the agriculture sector, are some issues to be named. These factors have combined to create serious issues; Pakistan is no longer self-sufficient in wheat (against the revised target of 27.5 million tons for the year 2020, Pakistan harvested 25.2448 million tons wheat, thereby creating flour crisis and importation of wheat); cotton yield has been declining, and thus hurting national economy, for the last many years (7 million bales in 2020-21 against the requirement of almost 14 million bales); Basmati rice, Pakistan's jugular vein of agri-exports (\$2.2 billion worth annual export) is also facing a serious threat by ongoing litigation in EU Commission as India had applied for exclusive monopoly over the marketing of Basmati rice in European Union market. These structural, policy, budgetary,



Agriculture enjoys strategic importance for Pakistan's economy as it is a key to employment generation, poverty alleviation, rural development, maintenance of healthy foreign exchange reserves, and, most importantly, food and nutrition security. It contributes 19.2% to Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP), employs around 38.5% of Pakistan's total labour force, and provides livelihood to 65-70% of the country's population (Pakistan Economic Survey 2020-21). In financial year (FY) 2020-21, Pakistan exported \$25 billion worth of goods and services. Agriculture contributed, directly or indirectly, more than 60% to this export, thereby providing robust support to Pakistan's volatile foreign exchange reserves.

administrative and technological deficiencies are bound to hurt Pakistan unless addressed on a war-footing.

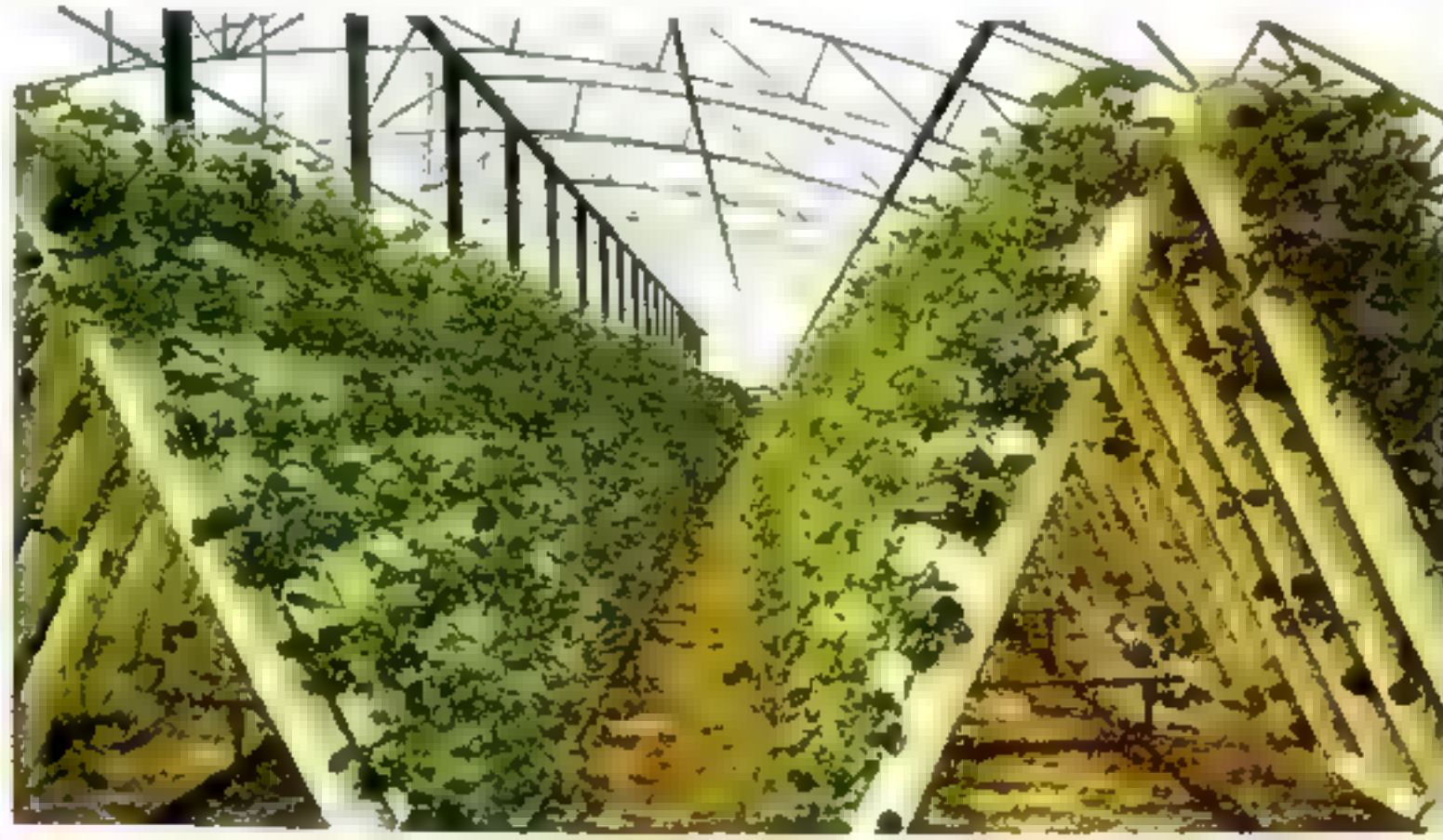
Technological transformation of agriculture, or smart agriculture, is what we need on an emergency basis. Only efficiency of the inputs applied and of provision of food and fiber to the rapidly-growing population of Pakistan. Some key technologies such as precision farming, sensor technology and vertical farming can be used to expand the resource base of agriculture, and thus help resolve many lingering issues that traditional farming practices have failed to overcome.

Precision farming is one of the most-sought-after interventions to improve the agricultural output. It provides real-time data and information from GPS-satellite which helps farmers make informed decisions regarding the rate and timing of application of various inputs like fertilizers and irrigation. It is not a new thing because as much as

manufacturing. Competition would bring down the prices, thereby making them affordable for our farmers. The customized application of different inputs tailored to the specific requirements of the soil would go a long way in maintaining soil fertility, enhancing crop productivity and saving precious resources of agricultural communities of Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention here that a farmer has to make 40 key decisions during the lifespan of a single crop. These decisions are critical as they eventually determine crop yield and sustainability of soil fertility. Generally, Pakistani farmers take these decisions based upon observation which can be inaccurate and may lead to losses in terms of wastage of scarce resources and reduced crop yield.

Sensor technology can help farmers make informed decisions based on remote monitoring via sensors attached to mobile phones or other devices. This technology helps



80% of Australian farmers and 70% of those in the United States use these tools. The use of drones is also getting momentum abroad, and Pakistan's agriculture, which suffers from gross fertilizer and irrigation inefficiencies, is in dire need of this technology. It is heartening that the incumbent government has hinted to adopt measures in this regard. Prime Minister Imran Khan recently approved the establishment of a Civil Drone Authority, separating drones from the jurisdiction of Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority. The Ministry of Science & Technology had already announced back in March 2021 that the government had manufactured a drone specifically designed for performing agronomical practices. This drone could spray 16 liters of pesticide in 18 minutes, thereby covering 10 acres within an hour. With the introduction of various incentives – tax breaks, waiving off tariffs and elimination of red-tapism – Pakistan can provide a huge market for domestic and foreign companies to invest in drone

farmers accurately determine soil acidity, moisture content, water retention, nutrient level, soil type, crop health (disease, weed and insect infestation), wind speed, rainfall pattern, humidity and much other soil and

atmospheric variables vital from crop productivity and long-term soil fertility. A farmer can take strategic decisions at the farm level, and operational decisions at the plant level. Fortunately, the Punjab government has started taking steps in this regard. In 2020, Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) launched a pilot project to use artificial intelligence (AI) to measure soil and environmental variables. Different sensors were used which were connected to a laptop or smartphone. Later on, PITB expanded the project to districts of Vehari, Sargodha and Layyah. The system was designed to measure site-specific requirements of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation, and thereby helping farmers apply the customized rate of these inputs. One can hope that the government further

expands the project and encourages farmers to adopt this innovation through subsidies and other incentives.

AI-controlled vertical farming is another exciting innovation that can potentially alleviate climate change and associated risks our food production systems are faced with. In this type of farming, vertical farms are built where crops are grown in vertically-stacked layers. AI monitors light, water and temperature requirement, and the optimal amount of these inputs are provided.

Other soilless farming techniques for instance hydroponics (growing of plants in water supplied with required nutrients) can be integrated with this farming. The controlled environment can, thus, ensure extremely efficient utilization of resources – 90% less water and 99% less soil as compared to conventional farming – with 400 times more crop yield. We can reap a yield of 720 acres from only 2 acres of a vertical farm. This type of farming can address the issues of climate change as we will be able to control environmental variables according to the specific requirement of the crops. In addition, the issues of deforestation and human-led encroachment to the wild areas can also be resolved effectively. Because of the rapidly-growing population and slow momentum of the Green Revolution, it can be asserted that vertical farming is the panacea to all current challenges and risks that threaten the food security of human beings. The only downside of this approach is that it is prohibitively expensive – 850 times costlier than conventional farming – but with government interventions and R&D, this approach can be made affordable for large corporations and government-controlled entities. There is no denying that such out-of-the-box and resource-efficient technological solutions can ensure the sustenance of human civilization on Earth.

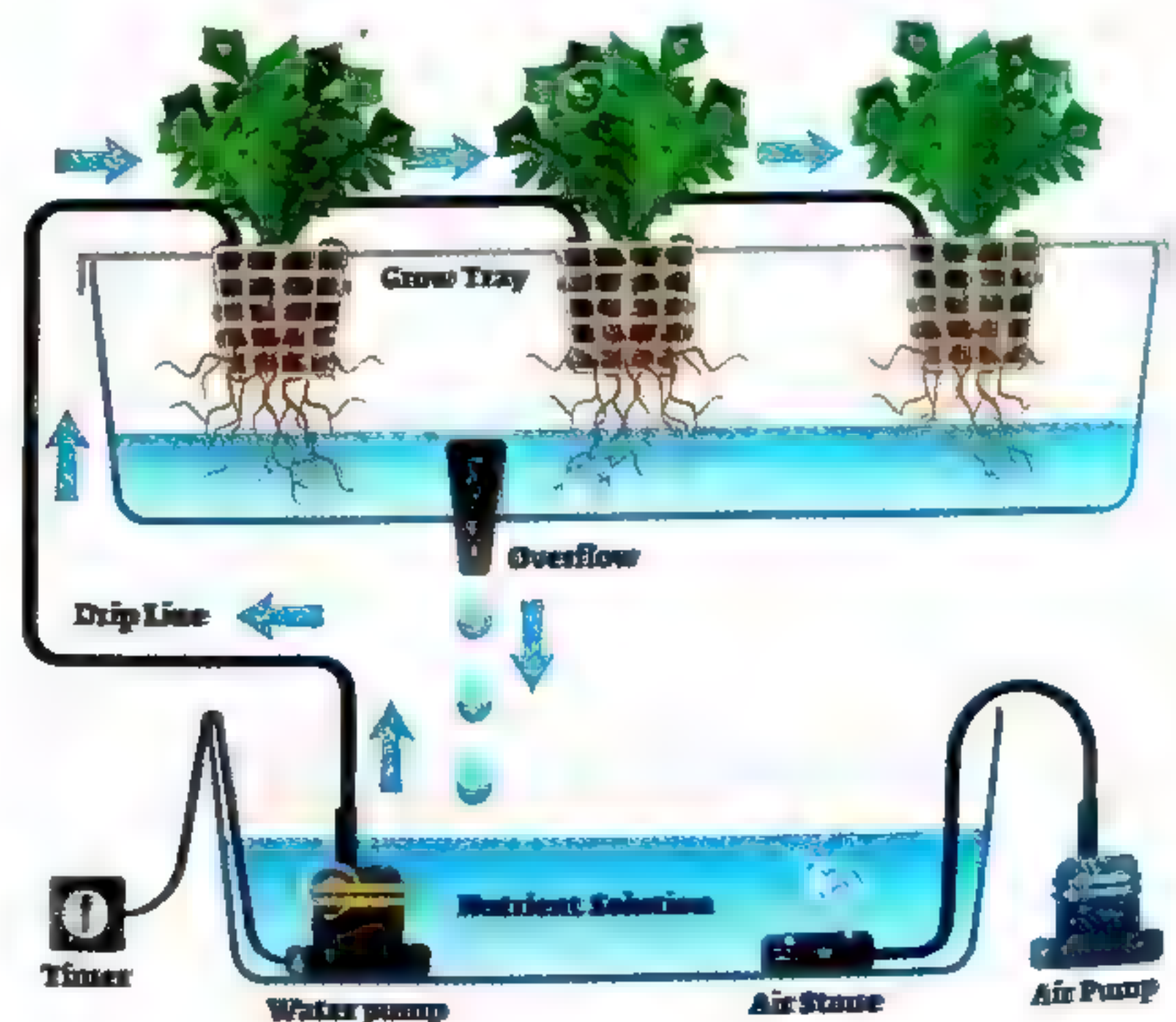
Improvement in the agri-food value chain is another much-needed intervention to help agriculture grow sustainably. The food value chain consists of the supply of inputs, production, storage and transport, processing, trading, distribution and consumption. Pakistan's agri-food chain is defective and causes market distortion and glut formation. This leads to smaller export market, low income at all levels, persistent threats to the country's food security and national economy and loss of employment for small landholders. In this regard, capacity-building of all stakeholders – input suppliers, farmers, transporters, processors and traders – must be done. Training of processors and traders on sanitary and phyto-sanitary protocol and international certifications is the most important to meet international requirements for exports. The establishment of credit lines for offering concessional loans for strengthening storage and transport infrastructure to avoid post-harvest losses and glut market should also be considered seriously by our policymakers. Farmers should be encouraged to establish cooperative societies for accessing cutting-edge agricultural technologies.

Government should also focus on the agricultural engineering sector so as to manufacture implements for many un-mechanized practices like direct plantation of rice, sowing of setts for sugarcane plantation, etc. Integrated and holistic government-led interventions in bringing efficiency and innovation at every level of the food value chain can go a long way in neutralizing the ever-looming threats of food insecurity, economic slowdown and acute poverty. Making the food value chain socially, economically and

environmentally sustainable is an ongoing project of the World Bank; our government can tap this financing to address various risks associated with this domain.

The policy, legislative and regulatory ecosystem of Pakistan's agriculture is also not suitable for making this sector a true engine of growth. Livestock is the largest subsector of agriculture. It contributed 60.1% to total agricultural value addition and 11.5% to GDP in FY2020-21. Despite this self-evident importance, our policymakers are incorrigibly and unfathomably preoccupied with the crop sector. Though wheat and other crops are strategically important for Pakistan's food security and economy, livestock does deserve its treatment on merit. Major chunks of resources go to the crop sector at the cost of livestock sector that is left struggling to meet its recurrent expenditure, not to speak of initiating projects to tap the huge Halal meat market by overcoming epidemiological (foot and mouth disease, etc.) and financial constraints. Budgetary allocation for agriculture is prohibitively low that provides little fiscal space for launching ambitious crop productivity programs. In FY 2021, the Punjab government allocated PKR 39 billion, out of which PKR 31 billion will be utilized for non-development purposes and the remaining 8 billion have been earmarked for developmental objectives which are awfully inadequate to undertake the technological transformation of agriculture. In addition, research and development (R&D) which is indispensable for the development of varieties and breeds adaptable for vagaries of climate change has always been a neglected area and gets peanuts as compared to other sectors. Agricultural scientists working in research institutions are extremely disincentivized to compete with private sectors and the bureaucratic structure there is hindering the optimal utilization of the state resources. There is an urgent need to review the organizational setup and restructure these institutions in order to incentivize efficiency and performance and punish inefficiency vis-à-vis the development of varieties and breeds. Teaching, research, and extension are three pillars of agriculture. Unfortunately, all these pillars are disconnected and

HYDROPONICS DRIp SYSTEM



suffer from a lack of institutionalized coordination and collaboration mechanism. The non-integration of the agriculture development program in national development strategies has always hurt the long-term growth perspective of Pakistan. Though the incumbent Finance Minister, Shoukat Tarin, has included agriculture in those key sectors that the government will develop under planning-based short-, medium- and long-term economic programs to ensure sustainable growth, he failed to come up with well-delineated strategies to materialize his ambitious goal. Nonetheless, this is the right step in the right direction and will certainly help mitigate the long-held grievances of the agricultural community.

Support price mechanism should be tailored to bring about efficiency in market dynamics, spur broad-based rural development and ensure consumer protection and economic sustainability. Every year, the Punjab government allocates substantial resources for public procurement of wheat to

support price, the government should either announce an intervention price that should be activated in case farmers are not getting minimum price in the market or should gradually decrease public procurement while maintaining the strategic reserve. Cotton crop is one such case where the government has fixed its intervention price that would be activated when the market fails to offer a satisfactory price to farmers.

Agriculture must grow at 5% annually to sustain 7-8% GDP growth that is essential for poverty reduction and requisite employment generation to properly capitalize on the youth bulge. The widespread stunted growth in Pakistan — 38% of children under five years of age are stunted — does warrant holistic public policies and administrative measures to transform agriculture technologically, economically and environmentally. Cross-departmental and inter-provincial collaboration under centrally-supervised long-term planning; improvement in the legislative, administrative and regulatory



maintain strategic reserves, control flour prices and address the possible wheat crisis. The government then releases gradually the stocked wheat at a subsidized rate to flour mills. This public procurement and guaranteed price have helped sustain wheat production, but this support price mechanism is causing food circular debt in Punjab. Last year, the government purchased 3.4 million tons of wheat at the support price of PKR 1800 that cost 160 billion, and that pushed food circular debt to a staggering PKR 560 billion. The main thrust behind this relentless increase in debt is that government does not include incidentals like the cost of gunny bags, transportation charges, fumigation cost, pilferage in public stock, and interest on the loan in issue price. This is unsustainable and does not achieve the intended target also. This mechanism has prevented farmers from shifting to more nutritious and lucrative crops and hindered the market from working efficiently. Instead of

business atmosphere; accelerated technology transfer under Working on Agriculture of CPEC; government-led facilitation for the establishment of farmers' cooperative societies; provision of subsidized and collateral-free loans to subsistence farming families; expansion in the asset-transfer

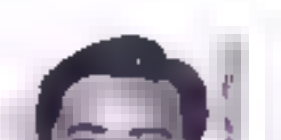
schemes; establishment of mouth and foot disease-free zones and value addition under CPEC to tap multi-billion dollars Halal market should be given topmost priorities in the policymaking process at the national and provincial level. We can ill-afford the suboptimal performance of agriculture and stagnant economic growth and development that may ensue. ■

The writer is a graduate of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. He writes on national and international affairs.

How the purpose can be achieved?

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Adnan Safdar

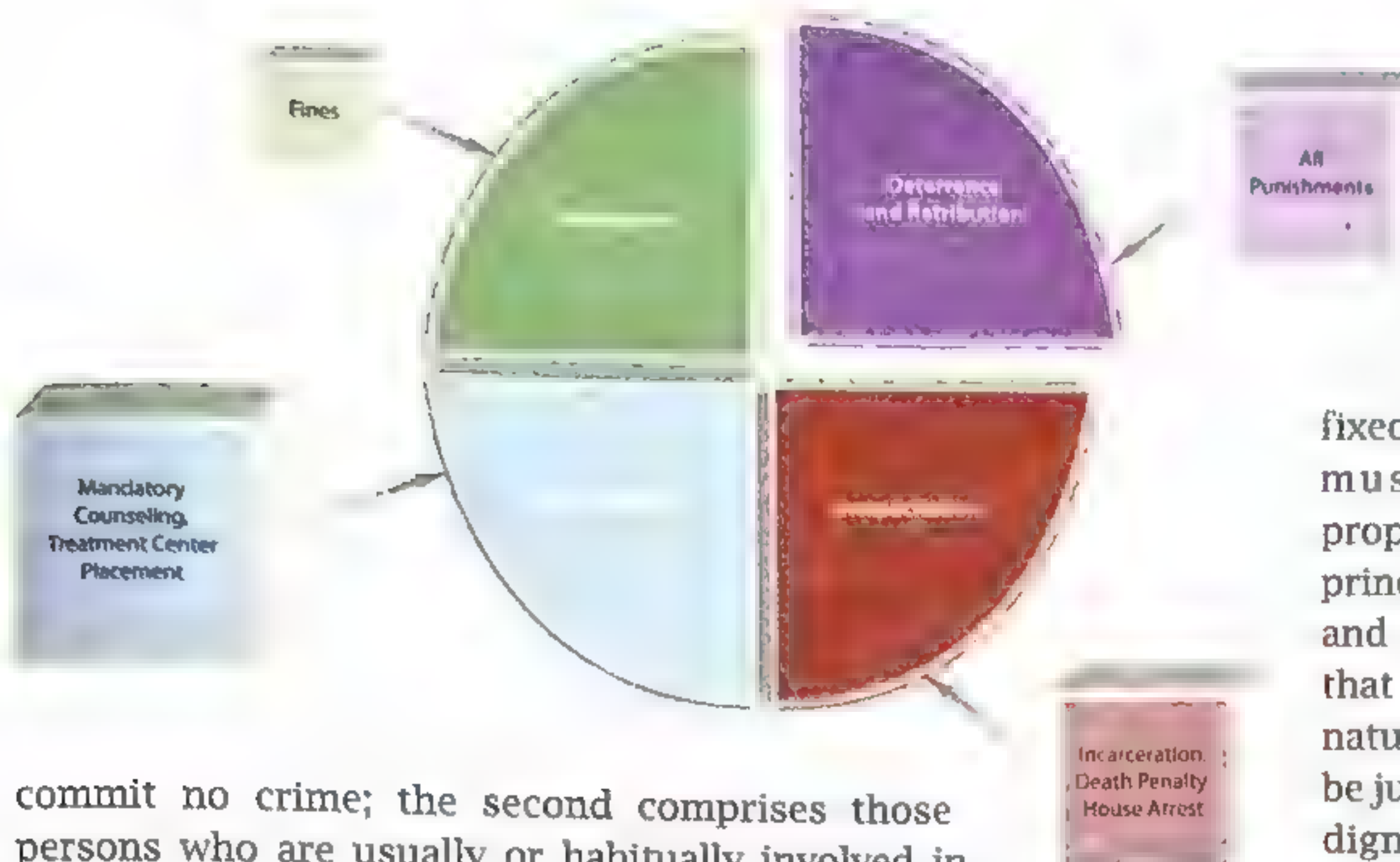


In simple connotation, the concept of 'deterrence of punishment' means 'threat of punishment'. Undeniably, deterrence is a 'must' factor for the maintenance of an effective criminal justice system, and for the preservation of society because without maintaining a certain level of deterrence of punishments, society may become a gangland in which the consequences of crime bother no one. Prof. John Salmond, a prominent jurist, has rightly said, "Punishment is before all things deterrent.

and the chief end of the law of crime is to make the evil doer an example and a warning to all who are like-minded with him."

Types of deterrence with regard to its subjects

In criminal jurisprudence, deterrence is mainly of two types: specific deterrence and general deterrence. It is specific when it is aimed at the offender, and general when the subject is evil-minded strata of society. In almost every society, there are three classifications: the first is composed of upright and law-abiding persons who



commit no crime; the second comprises those persons who are usually or habitually involved in criminal activities; the third consists of the persons who are in-between the first two categories, but is at risk of falling in the category of criminals. A good deterrent policy is the one that provides appropriate punishment for the offender falling in the second category, and also provides a sufficient threat of punishment for the persons in the third category who have a tendency of falling in the second category but, simultaneously, it does not terrorize the law-abiding citizens – the first category.

Essential elements of deterrence: how will it work effectively

There are three basic elements of a deterrent policy: severity, certainty and celerity. These elements must co-exist in a criminal justice system for bringing in the desired results. Each of the above elements also represents primary and secondary roles of three basic pillars of the state – the legislature, the executive and the

judicature – effective performance of each is necessary for achieving the ultimate goal of the law of crime, i.e. prevention of crime. Each element is discussed below:

i. Severity of Punishment: Primary Role of the Legislature

The severity of punishment is to be fixed primarily by the legislature. Each crime must have a punishment prescribed proportionate to its intensity and nature. One principle, which is by now widely recognized and mostly followed in the modern world, is that the punishment must not be brutal in nature. It must not be revenge-driven. It should be just and it must not be in violation of human dignity, which is protected – without any exception – by the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973. In the primitive world, some extremely

brutal punishments were recognized. For instance, in the Roman legal system, crucifixion was employed as a means of execution; in the Dark Ages of England, hanging, drawing and quartering was a grisly penalty for treason; hanging at crossroads was widely followed in many parts of the world. One may remember that less than a century ago, the corpus of Mussolini was hanged in the Piazzale Loreto and was fired at. All the above-mentioned punishments were brutal or revenge-driven; therefore, these are rejected for a modern criminal justice system.

In our criminal law, punishments, ranging from death penalty to fine, are already provided. The death penalty, and that too to be executed in a legal manner, is the severest of punishments provided in Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Offenses like murder, rape and terrorism are

punishable with death penalty. What else could be more severe than the capital punishment? So, any addition in the manner of execution of the death penalty is a violation of the dignity



principle of the constitution. Furthermore, life imprisonment, too, is not a less severe punishment. We may imagine its intensity by thinking that the offender would have to remain behind the bars for the rest of his life. There is a general misconception that life imprisonment is equivalent to twenty-five years in prison. To erase such misconception, it is clarified that imprisonment for life means serving all remaining life in jail. Therefore, we may conclude, in this regard, that the maximum level of acceptable severity of punishments is provided by the legislature; yet the severity of punishment alone is of no use until it is certainly implemented.

ii. Certainty of being caught and punished - primary role of the Executive

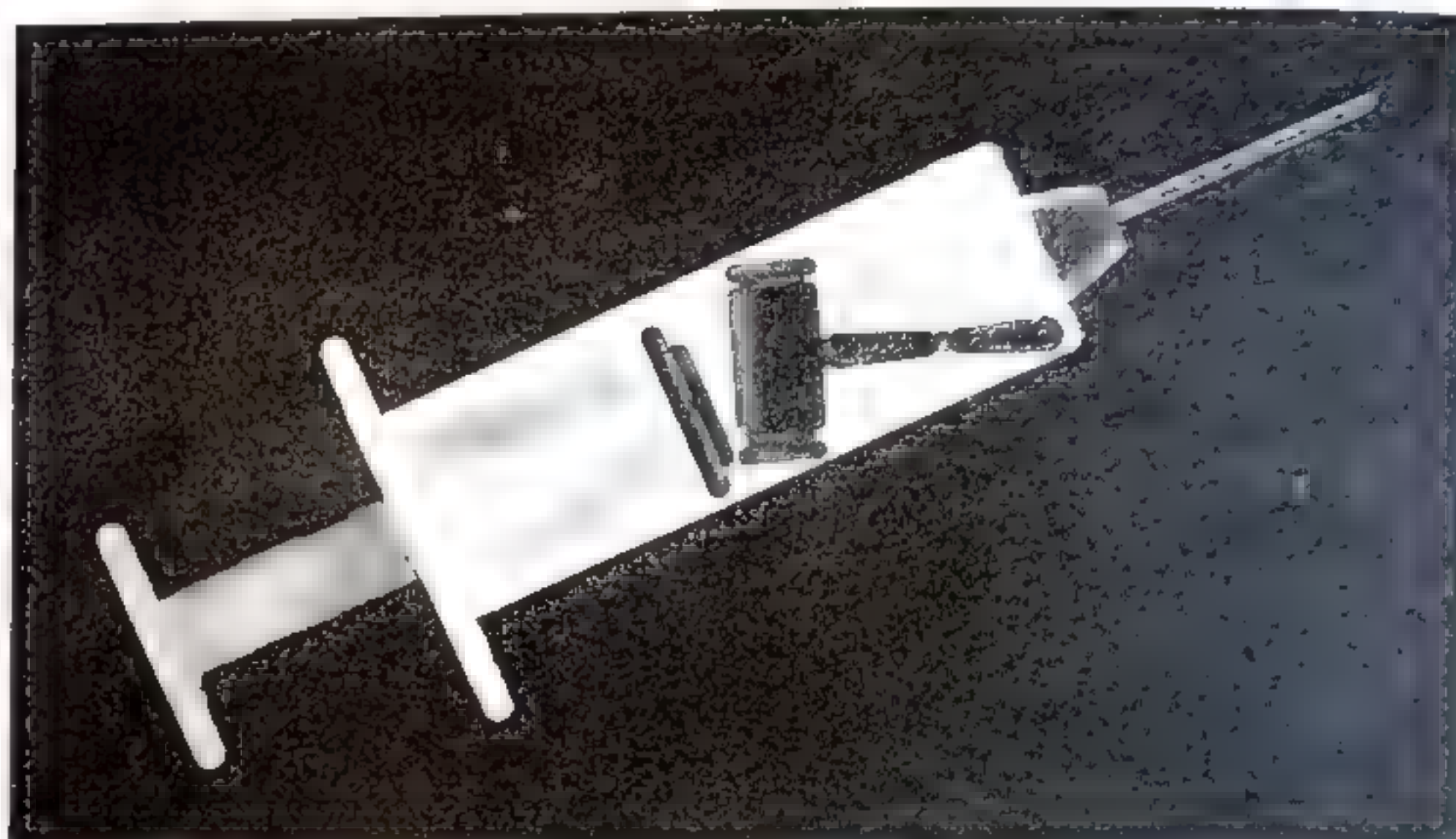
As discussed above, increasing the severity of punishment does little to deter crime but increasing the certainty of being caught and punished provides assured deterrence. Research establishes that the high chance of being caught is a way more effective deterrent than even a draconian punishment. How certainty of punishment can be assured is a million-dollar question. Here the Executive's primary role of policing comes into play. It is the primary duty of the police to prevent the commission of offenses, and if an offense has been committed, the duty is to detect and bring the offenders to book. The proactive role of the police not only prevents crime but also casts fear of being caught in the minds of the prospective criminals. However, the post-crime actions of the police make a real difference. A prompt response, apprehension of the culprit and the collection of irrefutable evidence in a flawless manner, on the one hand, helps to bring the active-offender to book; and, on the other, enhances the serious potential threat of being caught and punished in the minds of the other would-be criminals hidden in society.

This is the actual point from where the problems of our criminal justice system arise. Our proactive policing does not meet even the minimum modern standards. In the post-crime role of the police, the fractionally low ratio of conviction reflects that our policing system is an utter failure. We often confuse the fear of the police with the fear of punishment: the first is in direct contravention to the modern concept of policing, which encourages a friendly attitude towards the law-abiding citizens and a just attitude towards the criminals; whereas, the latter is the desired destination of almost every criminal justice system. Therefore, it is quite obvious that for increasing the certainty of being caught and punished among the evil-minded strata of society, complete overhauling of our policing system is a must.

iii. Celerity in proceedings - primary role of the Judicature

The proceedings initiated by the police are always concluded by the judicature. The latter, as a neutral player between the accused and the state, supervises the legal process of investigation and also conducts the trial of the accused for determining the veracity of the charges. For casting an effective deterrent effect of punishments, it is mandatory that every stage of investigation and trial must not only be well organized but also be made transparent and swift. In the developed countries, we may observe, these legal processes are conducted diligently, with accuracy and without unnecessary delay; the outcome is enhanced deterrent effect.

Now, have a glimpse of situation at home. Delay and technicalities are the hallmarks of our judicial system. It takes years to conduct a trial and to punish a wrongdoer. It would be a nominal number of victims who are sure that, in the end, they will be served justice. Sorry to narrate but where the victims are not confident that justice would be done, how could the culprits be deterred in this system from the consequences of crime. There is a famous saying,



equally well-known among the legal fraternity and civil society that 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. The delayed justice is the most prominent among the reasons which have ripped the entire fabric of our system. Therefore, to combat the menace of crime, we have to ensure that post-crime legal proceedings are completed in a transparent manner and within a reasonable time, and punishment is inflicted upon the culprits and sound a warning for other like-minded people.

Before parting with this writing, I want every reader to assume for a moment that, in our country, not even a single offense goes without being punished and that all the culprits are punished according to the law, which already provides severe punishment; would not that be a deterrent sight for the others? Solution lies in ensuring certainty and celerity. ■

The writer is a former Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate and holds an LL.M (Criminology) degree.

Single National Curriculum in Pakistan

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE,
THAT IS THE PROBLEM



Education in Pakistan is an acrimonious topic, quite literally. With a bunch of parallel streams on offer to various segments of society, in theory at least, leaders and parents ought to have been able to pick the best tactics. In action, however, these streams have long divided education along economic lines, and perpetuated a situation some have described as education apartheid. Enter the Single National Curriculum (SNC), which was supposed to fix that very thing. Under the slogan "Eik Qaum, Eik Nisaab" (One Nation, One Curriculum), the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government hoped to end the reinforcement of class divisions through standardized education. Two positive and unobjectionable changes that the SNC wishes to bring about with its policies are the promotion of critical thinking skills, analysis and creativity amongst students and the integration of information and communication technology (ICT) into pedagogy. Not only will these changes

The formulation and introduction of Single National Curriculum (SNC), a product of the Ministry of Education and Professional Training, under the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government, has resulted in controversy and seen much debate across mainstream media, civil society, and some social media platforms. The federal government has ordered the implementation of the SNC but, so far, only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab have accepted it; mainly because both provinces are under PTI whereas Sindh has taken strong exception to it. The idea of a uniform curriculum for all educational institutions was to ensure that public schools, private schools, and seminaries/ madrasahs have the same/ similar learning outcomes but it is clear that all is not well with it.

Hassaan Bin Zubair

help to improve our learning outcomes and elevate our educational standards, but they will also aid us in tackling the problem of rote learning, which is well known to hinder effective learning. The government hopes to create equal opportunities for learning and success for all students, irrespective of socio-economic class and schooling. But noble as this sentiment was, the unified curriculum it finally devised has become a divisive issue on its own. The question of implementing it has reignited the age-old debate of what should be a provincial subject and what should be a federal one. While the provinces under the rule of PTI have announced they will be implementing it for grades 1 to 5 this academic session, Sindh has taken a firm stance against it. Meanwhile, in Lahore, elite private schools, including the Aitchison College, have started their new session without the SNC, even though the government ordered the private education sector to follow suit. The subject has stirred controversy especially after the Government of Sindh, under its authority in the post-

18th amendment scenario, rejected the SNC. Provincial minister for Education and Literacy, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, announced in the assembly that education is a provincial subject and that the federal government, according to the constitution, cannot force them to accept the curriculum it has formulated.

But the debate does not end there. As photographs of the newly published SNC textbooks circulated online, so did concerns raised by seasoned educationists.

The new curriculum was a surprise also for most of the associations under which the schools and the education system operate. Educationists were looking forward to a curriculum that could empower and upgrade the existing

systems are following the same curriculum because students had to appear in grade 5 and 8 board exams until a few years ago and they still have to appear in grades 9 to 12 board exams. The course is the same for everyone. The only students who are not following this system are the ones who take O- and A-Level exams. It means that almost 90 percent of local students are studying the same curriculum with few changes in books that will remain the same.

Subject specialists also seem annoyed with the new curriculum. They assert that keeping in view what the constitution allows and propagates in the country, no one can be pushed to receive religious education. Article 22 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan states that "No person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction, or take part in any religious ceremony or attend religious worship, if such instruction, ceremony or worship relates to a religion other than his own." However, previously the curriculum was being taught in the country and even with the new syllabus, the books have incorporated Quranic verses and Islamic



education system to bring a good balance between Madaris and schools. But, in the process, the modern education has suffered.

The first issue the experts raise is that the students in each education system come from different backgrounds. So, judging them through one system would not be fair for most of them. Similarly, the rigorous exercise, which the country is going through right now with putting all categories of schools, maktabas, and madaris under one system, is making it difficult for existing systems as well.

Educationists contend that given the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) in the country, almost all education



content in Science subjects as well. The books such as Biology or Physics shouldn't be dealt with in the way the curriculum board is doing. They should only be approved or amended by subject experts. The involvement of Islamic scholars should be taken into consideration in subjects such as Islamiyat. There has been much research and speculation as to how much religious content should be taught in school, the law, at present, specifies no exact percentage. The problem arises when religious content is mixed into compulsory subjects.

Subjects like Urdu, English, and Social Studies are compulsory for minorities as well and are taught even at

the university level. There are no electives for them, and still, even at present, a large amount of religious content is part of the teaching of such subjects in Pakistan.

The new SNC course books have been approved by a committee working under the National Curriculum Council with an Islamic scholar as a mandatory member to point out what is religiously or culturally 'unacceptable' in the curriculum. The few topics that have changed include a greater emphasis on climate change and language/words, which are more common in the current scenario. All diagrams and pictures have been amended, but the most prominent change in the compulsory books can be seen in the ratio of progressive writers, which is less than it was before. Especially when it comes to Urdu literature, the work of progressive writers has not been included much. Moreover, in the year 2016-2017, the cabinet approved the Quran Act according to which schools must have Quran class and children have to complete a recitation of the Quran during their time in school. This is why the new curriculum has incorporated Islamiyat at a very younger class. "This has made the subject quite heavy but it was due to the act that passed. But, article 22 aspects can't be ignored and when a specific subject has been introduced in the course already, there is no need to incorporate religious aspects in other subjects such as science and mathematics.

According to the new curriculum set, it is advised that other than English, Mathematics, and Science, all subjects should be taught in the national language, like it is in countries like China and Japan. But that would require a more thorough curriculum development. The policymakers ignored the fact that the textbooks needed to practice this choice may not be as readily available in a school's language



For the first time in Pakistan history,
the curriculum has set...

- ✓ Modern trends
- ✓ Critical Thinking
- ✓ Life Skills
- ✓ Global Citizenship
- ✓ Sustainable development

of choice. Additionally, the textbooks written in local languages may not match the standards of those available in English and Urdu that have been developed, improved upon, and taught in schools for decades.

The requirement that every textbook used by a school be first approved by the respective provincial education board raises another problem. It will be difficult, if not impossible, for the Ministry of Education and Professional Training to ensure that the provincial textbook boards produce and/or approve teaching books of identical standards to cater to this policy of inclusivity.

Another issue is the training of teachers. Encouragingly, the government has taken a positive step as it has been training teachers after the new curriculum was introduced. Currently, the government is training 300 teachers who will become master trainers and train other teachers but all those teachers are coming from government institutions that cannot take on the private system.

Issues like lack of funds, a dearth of infrastructure and facilities, as well as inadequate training of teachers in public schools will remain unaddressed even if all the provinces unanimously agree to adopt the SNC. In this way, they will continue to perpetuate inequalities between the average public school, private school and madrassah students.

SNC, as a concept, is not a bad notion as it can bring uniformity and equality among students. If children from rural areas, seminaries, private schools, and government schools are learning from the same syllabus, when they step into higher education they have an equal level of

knowledge. This can provide a level playing field and opportunities to everyone but only when the outcomes are dependent on the same guidelines. On a conclusive note, taking some liberty and making some minor variation in William Shakespeare's

words, it may well depict the situation To be or not to be that is the 'Problem'. It is a big question that a single national curriculum can be fully implemented in the country or not. Only time will tell! ■

The writer is a PhD scholar (English Literature). He can be reached at h bz77@yahoo.com

A man of few words, Geelani sahib made history as he stood firm as the sole voice of millions of Kashmiris under illegal Indian occupation. He led the freedom movement with prudence and resilience. He was cautious in his approach, and always had a broader perspective in sight, as he espoused the cause of self-determination. He had been a thorn in India's side since the early 1960s when he began campaigning for the territory's merger with Pakistan. It was all

evident from the acts the Indian government took after his death. As soon as news of his death began to make the rounds in the disputed Himalayan region, authorities blocked the internet and deployed hundreds of troops in the main city of Srinagar to prevent a mass funeral procession or protests against Indian rule. The authorities not only shamelessly snatched his body from his family but also disallowed his burial to be held in accordance with his will. He was buried in a tightly controlled pre-dawn ceremony as Indian authorities imposed a

lockdown across Indian-occupied Kashmir. That New Delhi has reacted nervously to 91-year-old Kashmiri freedom leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death is a fact that is evident from its decision to shut down internet in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir "as a precautionary measure" soon after pro-Geelani slogans and messages about his death were broadcast over loudspeakers from mosques in the occupied valley. Geelani sahib died on September 01 at his Srinagar residence due to geriatric-related

SYED ALI GEELANI

*"Hum Pakistani hain
aur Pakistan Humara hai"*

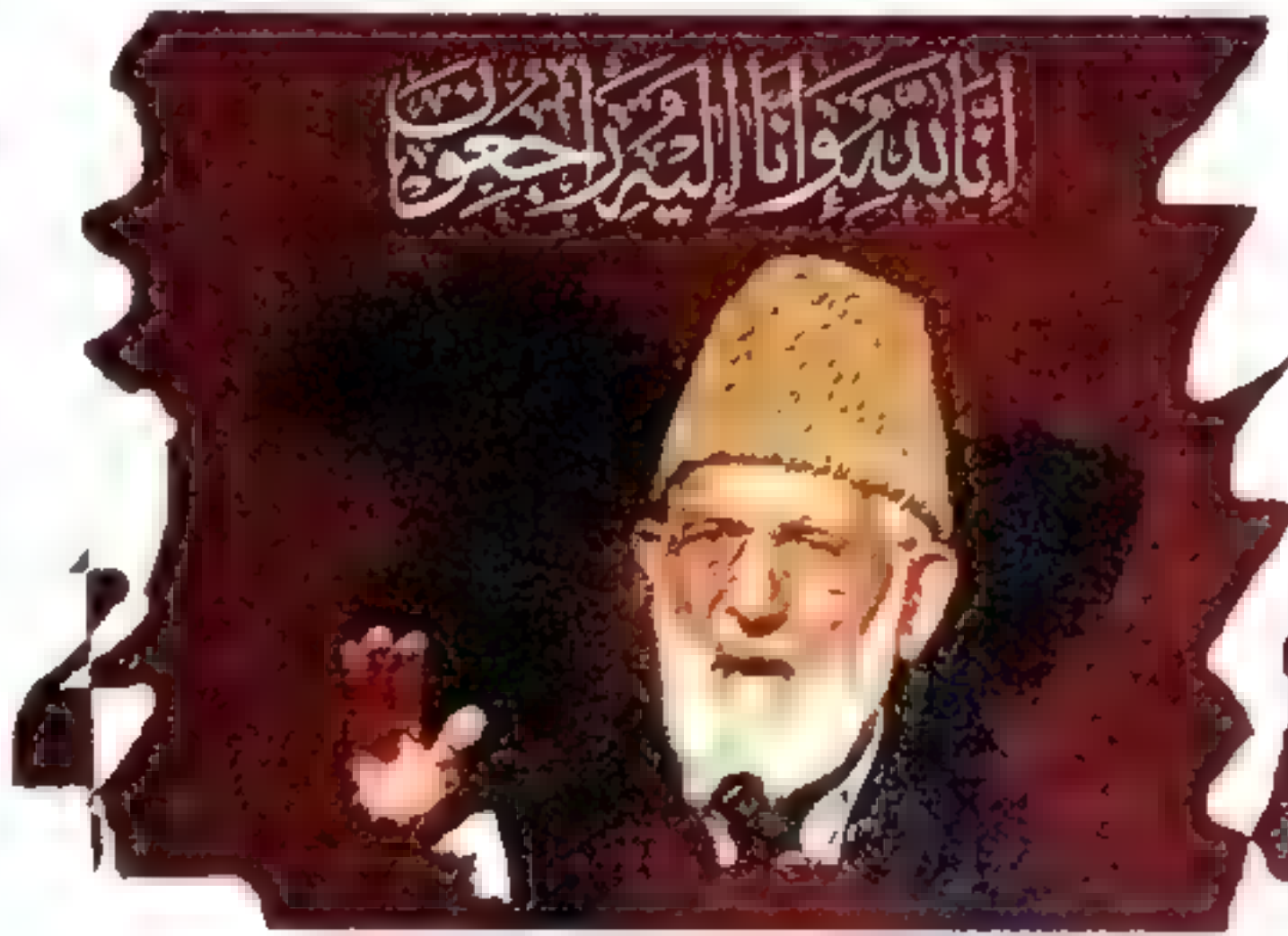
On September 01, an icon of the Kashmiri freedom movement, and former chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Shah Geelani, passed away in Srinagar. An uncompromising campaigner against illegal Indian rule over the Kashmir valley, Geelani sahib had been under house arrest for the past 11 years. His demise marks the culmination of a life dedicated to the people and cause of Occupied Kashmir. Having spent years in prison, the spectre he presented to the brutal Indian occupiers is mirrored in the fact that the frail 91-year-old Geelani sahib passed away under house arrest and was buried under Indian army supervision under total curfew and media blackout.



ailments, including dementia. He leaves behind two sons, six daughters and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren — along with millions of others, including the Kashmiris from the sub-continent and the worldwide Kashmiri diaspora—to mourn his death. He was, without an iota of doubt, a pro-Pakistan supporter, spearheading a freedom struggle in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for over three decades. Not only was Geelani sahib (one of the founders of Hurriyat Conference) the face of Jamaat-e-Islami and a true disciple of the party's founder Abul Aala Maududi, he was also a three-time MLA in the erstwhile state from Sopore that made him virtually the face of agitation in 2008 and 2010. He had been facing a slew of cases and protracted detention till his death. His passport was seized in 1981 and never returned, barring an exception in 2006 to facilitate him to perform Hajj.

Geelani sahib's approach to the Kashmir dispute was quite different from those of the Abdullahs, the Muftis, the Lones and others in IIOJK. According to him, for example, India and Pakistan cannot resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally because it's not a border dispute between two neighbours. No settlement can be reached by ignoring or sidelining the real stakeholders of the dispute, the Kashmiris. In one of his speeches, Geelani sahib publicly announced that although Pakistan is consistently helping Kashmiris diplomatically, politically and morally, it cannot take any decision on the Kashmir dispute on Kashmiris' behalf. The 2014

elections in the then state of Jammu and Kashmir dealt a serious blow to his popularity and esteem. Although Geelani sahib had appealed to Kashmiris to boycott those polls, which eventually brought Mehbooba Mufti's People's Democratic Party to power, there was nearly 60 percent voter turnout, the highest in 25 years. That a tweet of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti says it all is a fact. According to her, "we may not have agreed on most things but I respect him [Geelani sahib] for his steadfastness and standing by his belief..." Prime Minister Imran Khan, Opposition leaders Shehbaz Sharif



and Asif Zardari, among others, have expressed grief over Geelani sahib's death. No doubt, Geelani sahib will



always be remembered for his life-long struggle against India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, and his fascinating narrative that comprised, among other things, a synthetic account of Kashmir's

political history, geography and resources. Geelani sahib knew well that a struggle is a long and difficult attempt to achieve something as freedom. Surely, he would always be remembered for his perseverance, steadfastness and conduct that was always guided by deep ethics.

Brief Profile

Syed Ali Geelani was born on September 29, 1929, in a village on the banks of Wular lake in Sopore area of Kashmir's Baramulla district. He remained a staunch opponent of India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and led the Kashmiris' struggle for their right to self-determination.

Since his youth, Geelani sahib had been a member of Jamaat-i-Islami, the largest political-religious organisation in Kashmir that was banned by the Hindu nationalist government in 2019.

Later on, he founded his own party by the name of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat.

Geelani sahib had been a thorn in India's side since the early 1960s when he began campaigning for the territory's merger with Pakistan. He also pursued his calls as a member of the Kashmir assembly, from the Sopore constituency of Jammu and Kashmir, elected three times — 1972, 1977 and 1987.

The veteran politician was jailed for nearly 11 years after 1962 and often restricted to his home after that. He also served as the Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, a forum of freedom parties in Jammu and Kashmir, from which he stepped down last year. ■

The writer is a member of staff.

Changing Climate

... and Its Implications for Pakistan

Munazza Shareef

Climate-related challenges are not new to Pakistan and the nation has suffered in the form of extreme floods and prolonged droughts for many decades. There are two divergent theories about climate change behind frequent and recurrent floods and droughts. One theory is based on the belief

that this is a general environmental phenomenon and cycles that come and go, while the other theory believes that the challenges are due to the growing impacts of climate change. In either case, the phenomenon has great implications for the whole ecosystem and resultantly for the country.

Increased anthropogenic activities are affecting metrological conditions, which lead to climate-related disasters. Globally, the frequency of recurrent flooding and drought events has increased, ranking Pakistan as the 7th most vulnerable country in the world. The major consequences of climate change in Pakistan include: increase in temperature, spatial and temporal variability in precipitation, melting of glaciers, excessive erosion, decreased water storage ultimately leading towards water stress and food insecurity, degradation of biological diversity, ecosystem vulnerability, increased frequency of extreme events of floods and droughts, and seawater intrusion, etc.

In this article, the various implications of climate change phenomenon on Pakistan are discussed.

Rise in Temperature

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Earth's temperature has risen by about 1°C from pre-industrial level. With the business-as-usual scenario, this rise may reach up to 1.5°C during 2030-2050. The rise in temperature influences the spatio-temporal distribution of air masses by changing regions of low-pressure and high-pressure

systems around the globe. This shift results in seasonal variability and periods of extreme hot and cold days. Resultantly, the duration of summer season has prolonged with temperatures exceeding 50°C during June 2017 and 2020 over Pakistan. The coastal city of Karachi has also witnessed one of the fatal impacts of seasonal variations in the form of heatwaves during 2015.

Rise in Sea Level

Pakistan has also experienced a rise in sea level at a rate of about 1.1 mm per year — higher than the global mean. The projected scenarios show that it will continue to rise during the 21st century. In 2019, the global mean sea level was 387.6 mm higher than the average level of 1993 whereas a rise of 6.1 mm has been observed from 2018 to 2019. Rise in sea level is most likely to affect the low-lying coastal areas in Southern Sindh and Balochistan with devastating impacts on the environment south of Karachi, Ketu Bander and other parts of the Indus Delta. Studies indicate that a sea level rise of about 2 mm may submerge about 7,500 sq km of the Indus Delta. This rise will affect the coastal industry including power plants, refineries, ports and tourism. Ultimately, the compound impact of this rise may aggravate seawater intrusion, causing not only loss of productive land but also leading to increased salinity.

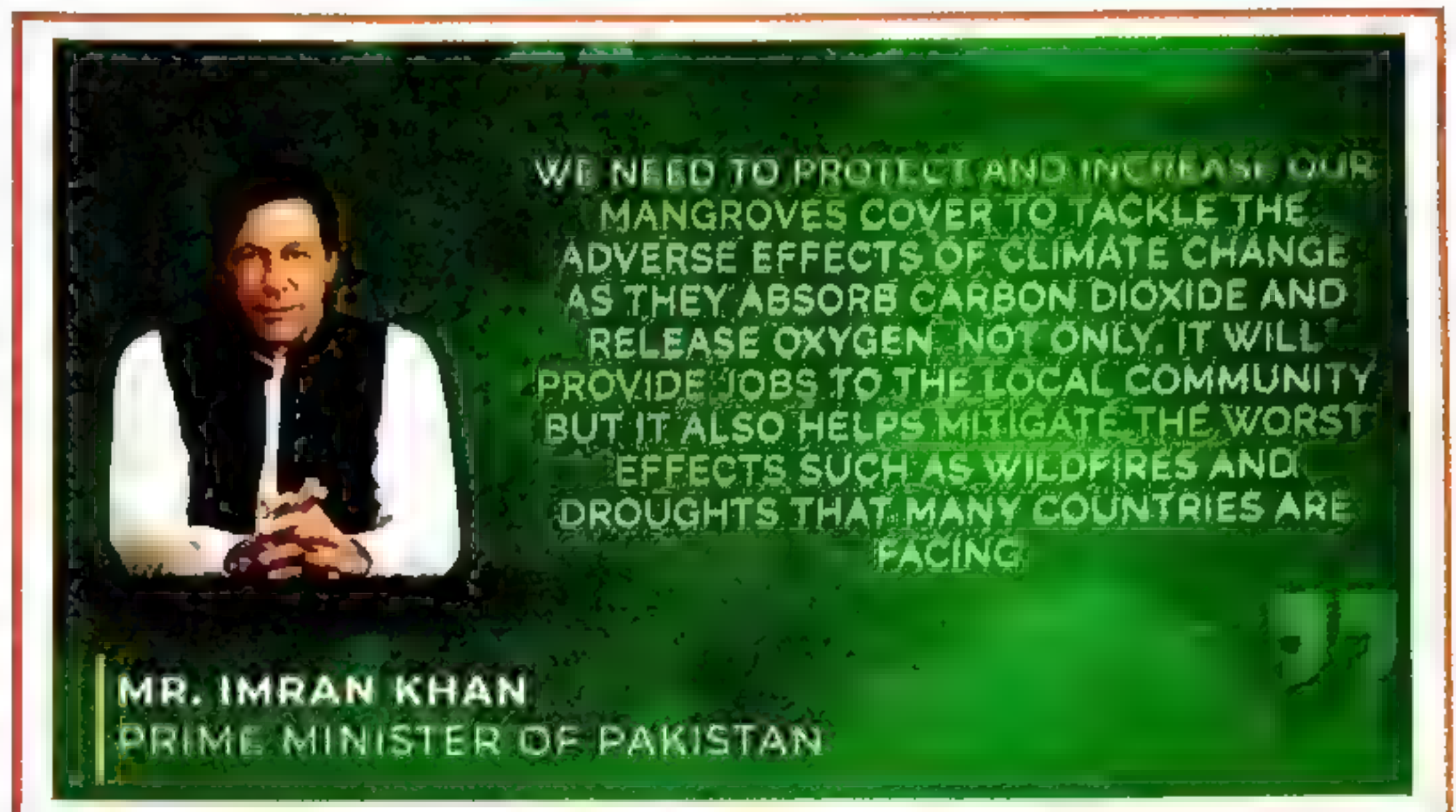
Glacial Lake Outburst Floods and Landsliding

In Pakistan, the Hindu Kush, Himalayas and Karakoram glaciers are melting due to increased temperature. It is estimated that about 3,044 glacial lakes have developed in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These lakes increase vulnerability and may become a growing risk for the communities living downstream in the form of glacial lake outburst floods, which facilitate sudden flooding events causing devastating impacts on the socio-economic conditions. During 2010, heavy rainfall triggered massive landslides, heavy rocks fell and blocked the flow of Hunza River for approximately five months. In the aftermath of this disaster, a 21 km long and 100 m deep lake known as Attabad Lake was formed.

Change in Precipitation Patterns

Another evident phenomenon is variability in annual precipitation, which has increased during the last 50 years all over the country. The inter-annual variability in rainfall has increased the reoccurrence frequency of flooding events and Pakistan is experiencing flooding approximately every 3–5 years. The flood of 2010 was a climatic disaster as subtropical jet streams moved downwards to the northern areas of Pakistan and created a blocking effect when it collided with northward moving monsoon. It caused heavy rainfall in the northern areas of the country during the months of July and August. This

intensive rainfall persisted for about 24 hours in Peshawar (274 mm), whereas rainfall of about 187 mm was recorded in April 2009. A vast area of Pakistan along the Indus River was affected during the 2010 floods with approximately 2,000 reported deaths. Due to changing precipitation trends, about 30% less than normal rainfall was recorded during 2018, whereas 45% higher than normal rainfall was reported during winter in 2019. Similarly, in Mithi, Tharparkar, rainfall of 430 mm was recorded in August



2020 against an annual average of 165 mm.

Increase in Crop Water Requirements

Climate change directly affects the water balance, influencing the soil moisture retention, evapo-transpiration, precipitation pattern and groundwater storage. Pakistan's two-third area lies in arid regions and rate of evapo-transpiration is high. Elevated global temperature will increase evapo-transpiration and the loss of water from plants and soil surface will increase aridity of the region. Higher evapo-transpiration will increase crop water requirements significantly.

In summer, during Rabi season, when wheat crop is in the grain-formation stage, increased evaporation intensifies water requirement and puts additional pressure on the available water resources. Consequently, early ripening of the crop, affecting both quality of the grain and overall yield has been observed. During Kharif season, southern part of the country experiences high temperatures. The region also receives some monsoon rainfall, which may help in reducing evapo-transpiration. However, the current variability in rainfall pattern is highly influencing cotton yields. A decline of 9% globally and 5% in Pakistan's production has been observed by crop phenologists.

Food Insecurity

Temperature and precipitation variability are affecting the global and regional water balance. The spatial shift in precipitation has affected rainfed areas by reduced water availability during cropping season. According to IPCC projections, agricultural productivity in Asia is declining substantially along with an increased occurrence of

droughts and floods. Research studies have highlighted a significant correlation of temperature and crop yields; a fall of 6% in wheat productivity is observed for every 1°C increase in temperature. Due to decreased productivity and increasing population, the world is suffering from food shortage.

Threat to Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The climatic implications are also responsible for land degradation and habitat loss for wildlife. Studies indicate that turtles that visit beaches along the coast of Sindh and Balochistan to lay eggs are now rarely observed in the region due to anthropogenic impacts. Similarly, persistent droughts in Thar have gravely endangered the livestock of the area. Thar, once home to an estimated 6 million livestock, is facing severe droughts brought about by the changing climate. Mangroves play as a natural barrier between saline and fresh water but due to an increase in sea level, this natural barrier is under threat. The intrusion of saline water also disrupts the growth of plant species, which grow in mild saline water. The loss of mangroves not only destroys the natural habitat of various species residing within the swamps, but also loss of plants and animals, which are the bread and butter for many communities. If the situation prevails, it will not only destroy the mangrove forest but also facilitate conversion of cultivable land into salt plains.

Water Resources

As in many other regions around the world, the incidence of extreme hydrological events is on the rise in Pakistan in many different forms, especially flash flooding in the mountainous streams in the northern part. It has especially been found in water availability analysis of the Kabul River Basin, a snow melt-fed basin, where there is a sharper peak with a clear shift in the annual peak flow by a month. In addition, a more increased frequency of larger magnitude annual maximum flow events has come out as a key finding of this Kabul River Basin study. Another work focused on the Gilgit River Basin, a glacier-fed basin, and it revealed that faster melting of glaciers under increased temperatures would bring more water flow a month earlier but with a flattened peak.

Increase in Epidemics

The rising temperature has a direct relationship with the spread of various vector-based diseases like malaria and dengue. Moist and warm temperatures are host to mosquito breeding in the hilly areas of Islamabad and

Potohar plains of Rawalpindi, where coupled with poor hygienic conditions, malaria and dengue cases increase from September to October.

Effect on the Financial Sector

Climate change has its adverse impacts on the financial sector as well. Being a cross-cutting theme, water is at the core of sustainable development for economic growth. The Global Climate Risk Index Report (2020) indicates that Pakistan has suffered an economic loss of about USD3792.52 million due to over 150 extreme weather events during the last couple of decades.

National and International Obligations

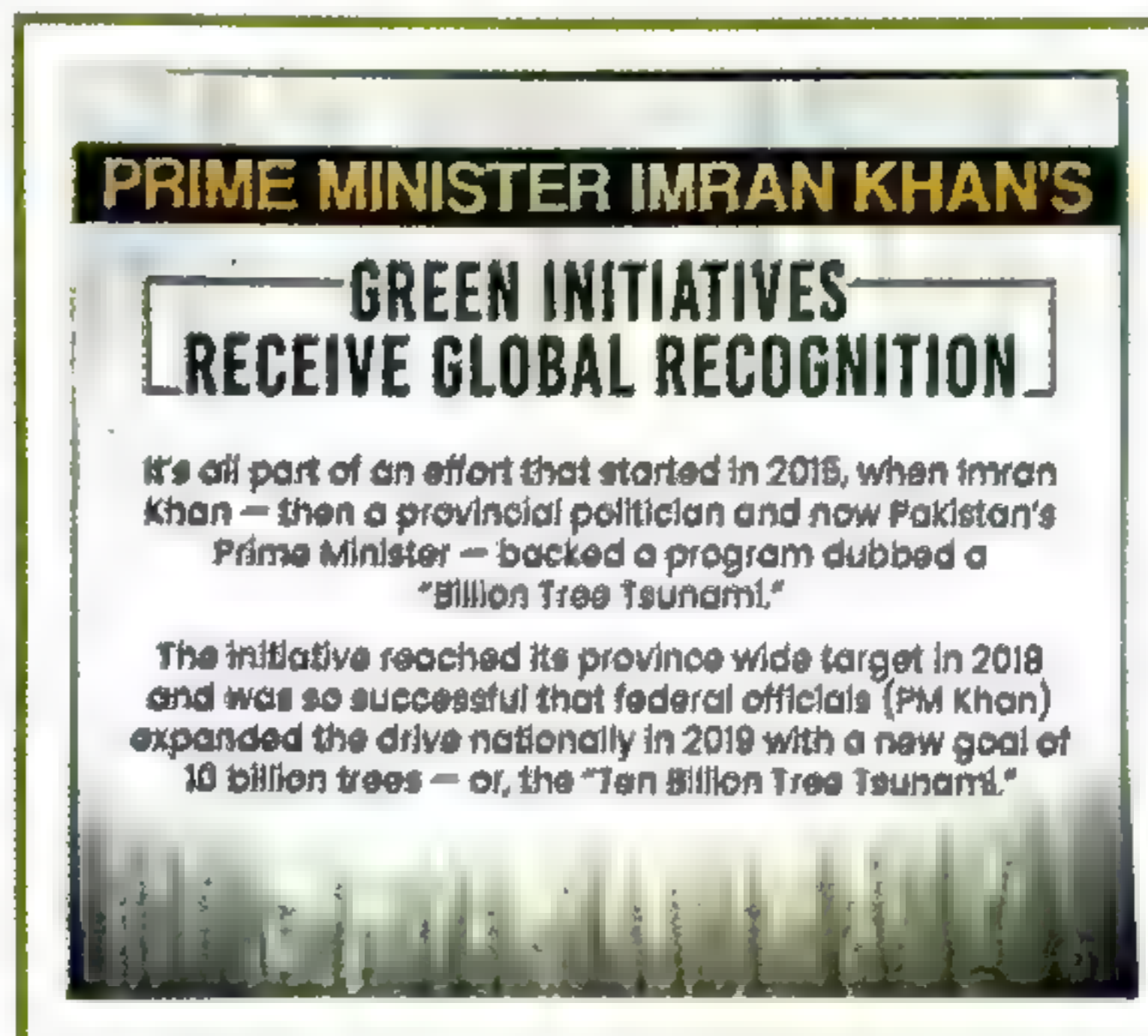
Pakistan has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) not only as internationally binding but also as a national development agenda. The country is also a signatory to the Paris Agreement of 2015 that emphasizes reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 20%. The National Assembly of Pakistan passed a resolution in 2016 for the national implementation of SDG Agenda 2030. After 2018, a national SDG Framework was developed to localize the national action plan for priority SDGs and SDG 13 is one of them. It aims at taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts. The "Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) preparedness" followed by a billion tree tsunami project, are focused efforts being done in the country to combat climate change. The National Climate Change Policy 2012 provides guidelines at the

federal level to develop climate resilient plans for socio-economic development.

Conclusion

Climate change or climate variability is a reality now. It affects the whole ecosystem threatening the water, food and energy security. If not managed properly, it has, and would have, huge impacts on the country's economy and well-being of the population. Therefore, it is important that all stakeholders - from public to the policymakers - realize its severity and take actions accordingly. One of the greatest initiatives that can help reduce climate change impacts is the "Green and Clean Pakistan" where everybody can play his/her role to effectively minimize the adverse effects of climate change. ■

The writer is currently serving as a lecturer.



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“Being out of touch with studies for a while and having scant time, the session at WTI proved to be very helpful in my final interview preparation.”

10 Questions with
Syed Abdul Rahman (PSP)
28th in Pakistan
CSS 2020-21

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Subject	Marks
Compulsory Subjects	
Essay	55
Précis & Composition	63
GSA	41
Current Affairs	57
Pakistan Affairs	49
Islamic Studies	51
Optional Subjects	
Accountancy & Auditing	138
Business Administration	61
Gender Studies	63
Mercantile Law	52
Journalism & Mass Comm.	71
Total Written	701
Viva Voce	170
Grand Total	871

JWT Edit. Board

Jahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background.

J **Syed Abdul Rahman (SAR):** My schooling has been from Ibne Sina College, Lahore. I did CAT (Certified Accounting Technician) foundation course for entry into ACCA and qualified ACCA. I received BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University – UK. After that, I pursued Chartered Accountancy (CA) and qualified as an Associate Chartered Accountant. During this course, I worked full time both within Pakistan and abroad and complemented my skillset and qualifications with ACMA from ICMA Pakistan, CPA Ireland, and CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor).

JWT: Since you have been allocated to Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?

SAR: Undoubtedly, all the services are very prestigious; however, because of certain unique features, I opted for the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) to achieve a position from which I can propose and implement the necessary reforms to minimize people's exploitation owing to the fact that they are generally unaware of their rights and duties. Moreover, my inspiration from former IGP, Mr Nasir Durrani (late), fuelled my passion for being part of such a prestigious service.

JWT: How was your experience of preparing for CSS at World Times Institute? And, how much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) during your preparation?

SAR: I came to WTI in a hybrid interview session for job-holders where we used to practice psychological assessment and thematic mock interviews over weekends. Being out of touch with studies for a while and having scant time, the session at WTI proved to be very helpful in my final interview preparation. Likewise, following the success stories of so many CSPs at JWT was another motivating factor to compensate for the discouragements.

I consulted "All in One" yearly issues of JWT magazine to prepare for Current Affairs, Pakistan Affairs and Islamic Studies papers. It helped me gain a thorough understanding of pertinent issues within a relatively shorter period.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?

SAR: CSS is an examination that allows a candidate to express his/her personal views on the issue(s) at hand. So, the key is not to stifle the personal opinions and ideas from flowing naturally. There is no right or wrong opinion; you can take any stance provided you justify that with relevant and well-researched arguments.

JWT: Generally, compulsory subjects are considered low-scoring. What was your strategy to get through these very papers?

SAR: In my opinion, originality of answers and impressive presentation are the two keys to scoring high in compulsory subjects. A good candidate educates the examiner and focuses on paper presentation, i.e. neat handwriting, proper headings and margins, coupled with flowcharts and diagrams to score maximum marks.

Insofar as my approach is concerned, it was to be relevant and concise. I started my answers with a two-line personal viewpoint followed by an introductory paragraph. I jumped straight to the issue at hand in the main body. After that, I wrote an analytical section; before giving

My Interview Experience

Interview is a test of soft skills and the adaptability of a candidate to different situations. The key is to focus more on psychological tests where psychologists judge the personality traits of a candidate.

My interview was a relatively short one as it spanned 15-20 minutes. It mostly comprised token questions. There were four panellists. My interview began with the respected Chairman asking me about the last column/opinion I had written for a Pakistani newspaper. Then, he asked me two to three token questions related to Pakistan Affairs & General Knowledge. Then, it moved on to the next panellist who asked a couple of questions from Indo-Pak History. The third panellist asked three token GK questions. The last panellist asked five token questions related to Current Affairs and US History.

Overall, it was a good experience. Although I dropped many questions, I did not lose my nerves and refrained politely from commenting on questions that I didn't know answers to. In the end, I thanked Mr Chairman and worthy panellists.

my final opinion, followed by a conclusion.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks?

SAR: Content is the king! The answers need to be relevant, well-articulated, thorough and well-researched. Make easier for the examiner to navigate through the paper by underlining the significant facts and figures. Try to use a combination of blue and black ink. There should be separate preparation for the MCQs portion to maximize the score in written part.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

SAR: There is no specific word limit; however, the structure of answers should cover all the dimensions like social, political, technological, environmental, legal and economic. Maintain symmetry in the length of all four answers. Time management is a prerequisite; devote equal time to all the answers, as all questions carry equal marks. On a safe side, a well-balanced response comprises 6-8 pages.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay and what was your strategy for Précis and Composition Paper?

SAR: Being one of the toppers for English Essay this year, my only tip is to create the Essay within the examination hall. Always choose a topic you have profound knowledge on. My ideas were genuine and unique. I focused on writing a relevant and catchy introduction. I left some space at the beginning of the script and wrote the essay outline at the end. I had practiced writing multiple full-length essays within exam conditions.

For Précis and Composition, the focus should be on building up the vocabulary bank and practicing writing as many précis paragraphs as possible. Learn idioms and pairs of words from any good book.

JWT: How a new aspirant should start his/her preparations?

SAR: The new aspirants should begin with self-introspection. Once goals in life are clear, self-identification of strengths and weaknesses is imperative. The next stage is choosing optional subjects. The stepping stone is reading any local or international newspaper regularly, developing competency in the English language, and keeping abreast of

the latest events in the world. Then, cover the entire syllabus for all the subjects through diverse reading sources. Reading more is the key to developing proficiency for impeccable writing. Consistency is the key; do not delay your attempt; brush aside all the discouragements. Give your best and leave the results to Almighty Allah.

JWT: What should be an ideal time table for a new aspirant to make sound preparation for CSS exam?

SAR: No 'one size fits all' strategy works in preparation for CSS exam. The time would vary from person to person; however, in my opinion, for first attempters, a dedicated preparation of 3-6 months, with 3-4 hours daily study routine, apart from newspaper reading, is sufficient.

My Tips on

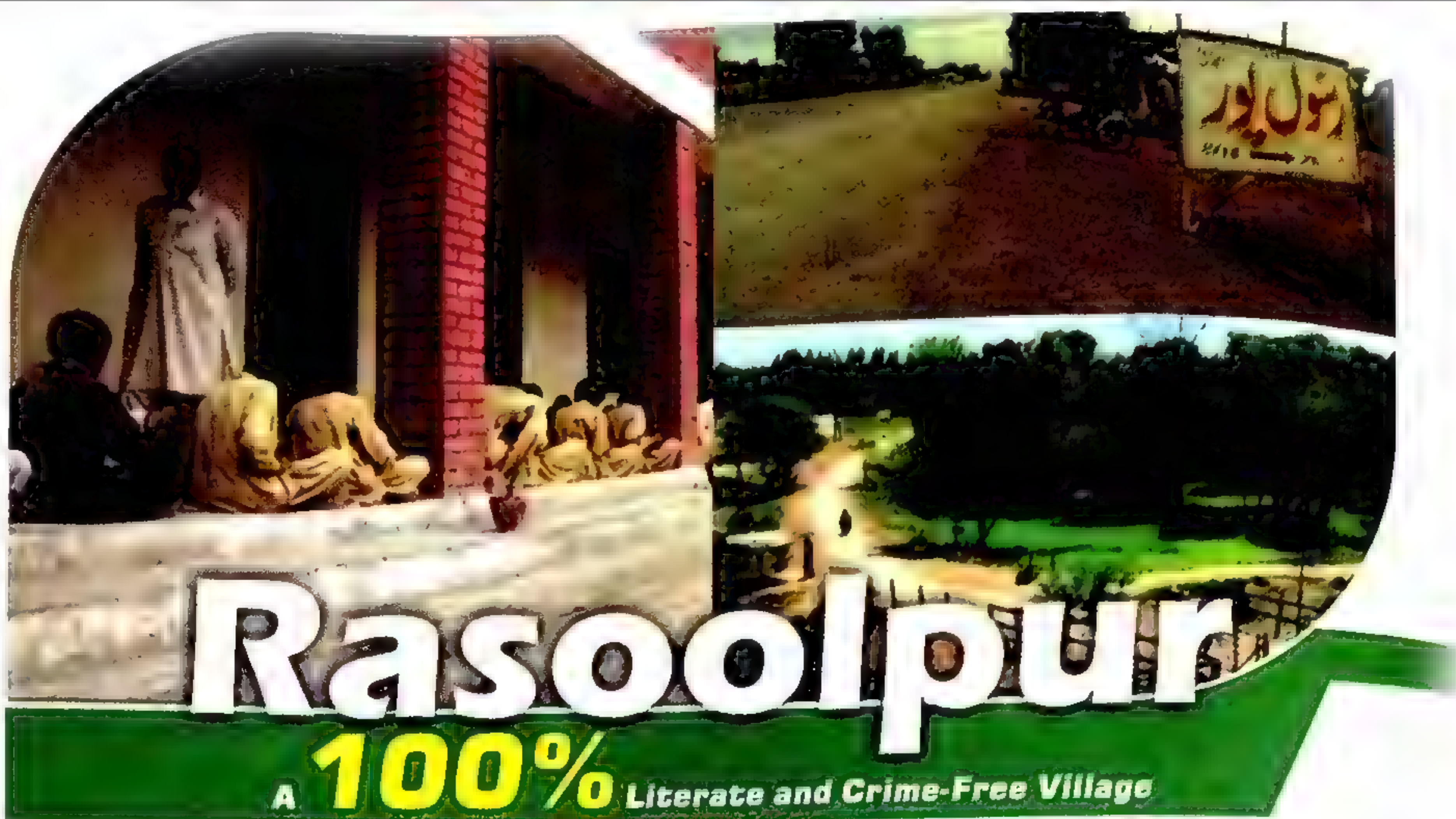
Selection of optional subjects

Always choose optional subjects that conform to your academic background. There are no high-scoring or low-scoring subjects. Always choose subjects of your interest as you will be comfortable and able to perform well. ■



Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	An innate desire to serve public from a position of authority
Attempts	02
Qualification	Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA)
Alma mater	Ibne Sina College, Lahore
Schooling medium	English
Your study schedule	While on-job, I used to study 1-2 hours daily in the evening, and for extended hours during holidays/leaves
Your sources	1. Local and international newspapers 2. State Bank economic data 3 Books by World Times Publications
Group preferences	1. PSP 2. PAS 3. FSP
Academy or Institute you joined	World Times Institute (for Interview)
Why PSP?	I see a greater opportunity to serve the public, particularly the down-trodden
Hobbies	Blogging and column-writing for local and international newspapers; reading crime novels
Fave personality	Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah
Fave book	"The Reluctant Fundamentalist" by Mohsin Hamid
Fave quote	"Expect the best, prepare for the worst" - Quaid-e-Azam
Secret of your success	Faith in Allah Almighty, prayers of my parents and sibling, relentless hard work, determination and perseverance
Your role model	Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA)



T

here is hardly any news in our mainstream media from small villages located in far-flung areas of the country. And, even if there is some, it is often a bad news. Due to this reason, we fail to know about the miracles being done in our remote areas. One such example is the Rasoolpur village of Rajanpur district. With a 100% literacy rate and 0% crime rate, this village can be a great model of a perfect civilization for the whole world.

Tucked into a remote corner of Pakistan's Punjab province, this small village has achieved two milestones few developed countries can boast. With 100% literacy rate and 0% crime rate, the village of Rasoolpur, located in Jampur Tehsil of Rajanpur district, represents Pakistan's actual image in the whole world. The village has a perfect literacy rate at a time when, according to the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey, that in the country is hovering around 60%, having remained stagnant since 2014-15.

The village has a population of 2,500-3,000 people, with most of its residents being ethnic Ahmadani Baloch whose ancestors migrated from Balochistan to Southern Punjab in 1933-34. At that time, they had no permanent source of income, so education became their tool to earn a living.

To encourage the children and their parents to continue this decade-old commitment to education, the community organizes a special event on Sept. 08 to mark the International Literacy Day. During the celebrations, they congratulate each other and show appreciation for school teachers. They also appreciate students who have achieved positions in competitive university-level exams. Encouraging the

In developing and backward countries including Pakistan, there is a perception that village is synonymous to poverty, ignorance, ill health, backwardness and unemployment. It leads to the notion that people in villages are illiterate. But a village in Punjab, Punjab province is proving the perception totally wrong. Education and development of the village named Rasoolpur is higher than that in big cities like Lahore and Karachi and the reason is it is based on strong moral foundations that have been strengthened by the people of the village.

Magazine Desk

students and showing them the success stories of their elder siblings make them achieve even higher goals.

Currently, Rasoolpur has two high schools and a primary school, having strength of around 30 students each. All the children, as soon as they reach the age of 4-5, start their education. The villagers do not believe in how the United Nations defines literacy - as the ability to sign one's name - every person of this village has to finish high school, otherwise, the elders do not give them permission to participate in the society. It is due to this reason that all the women of the village are educated which shows that they understand the importance of women's education as well.

After students complete high school, they go to a college in the nearest township of Jampur city, which is 8-10 kilometres (5-6 miles) away.

The village also has its own league called the Rasoolpur Development Society which is responsible for collecting donations for the people who cannot afford education. Society also makes sure that no one drops out of

school.

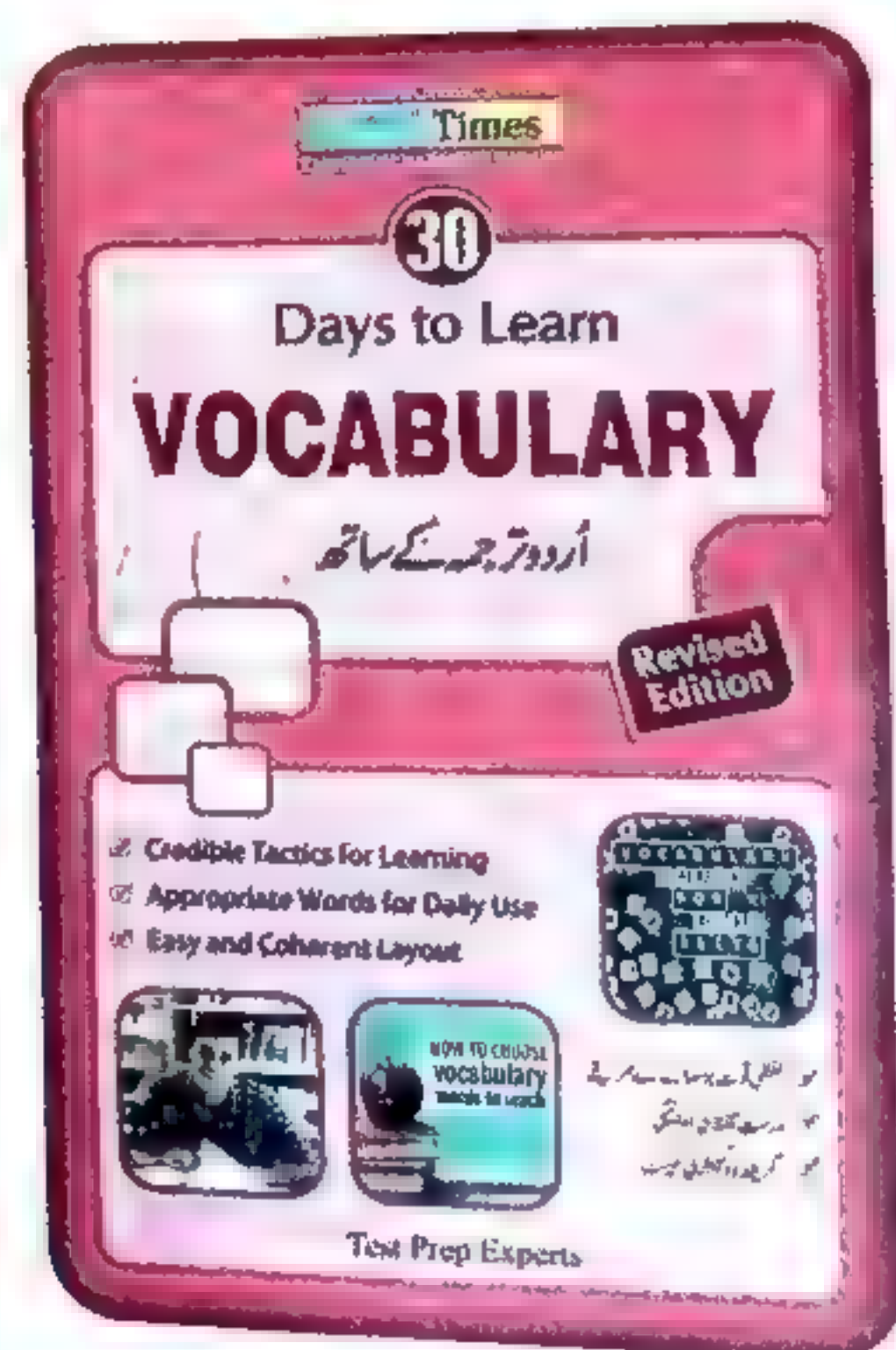
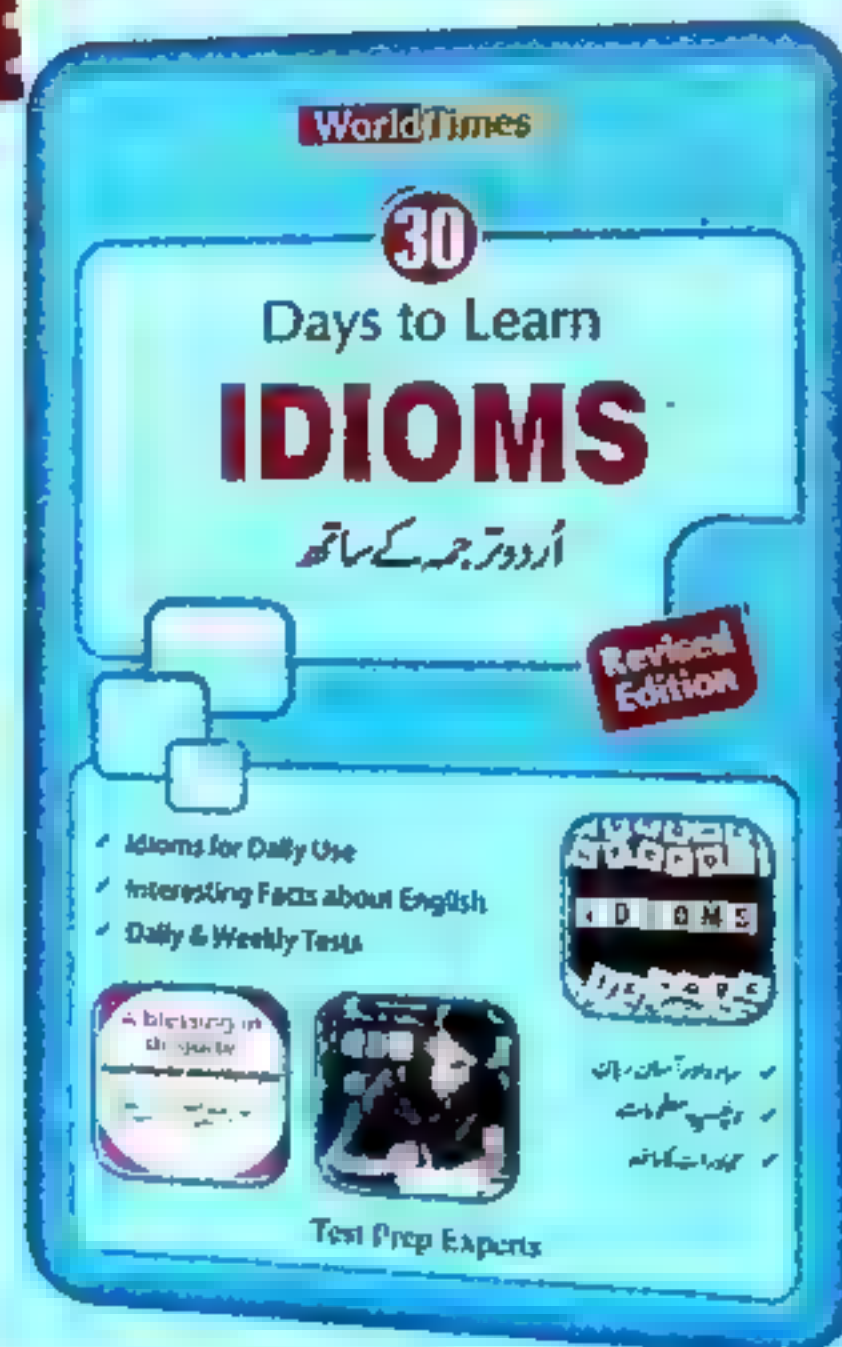
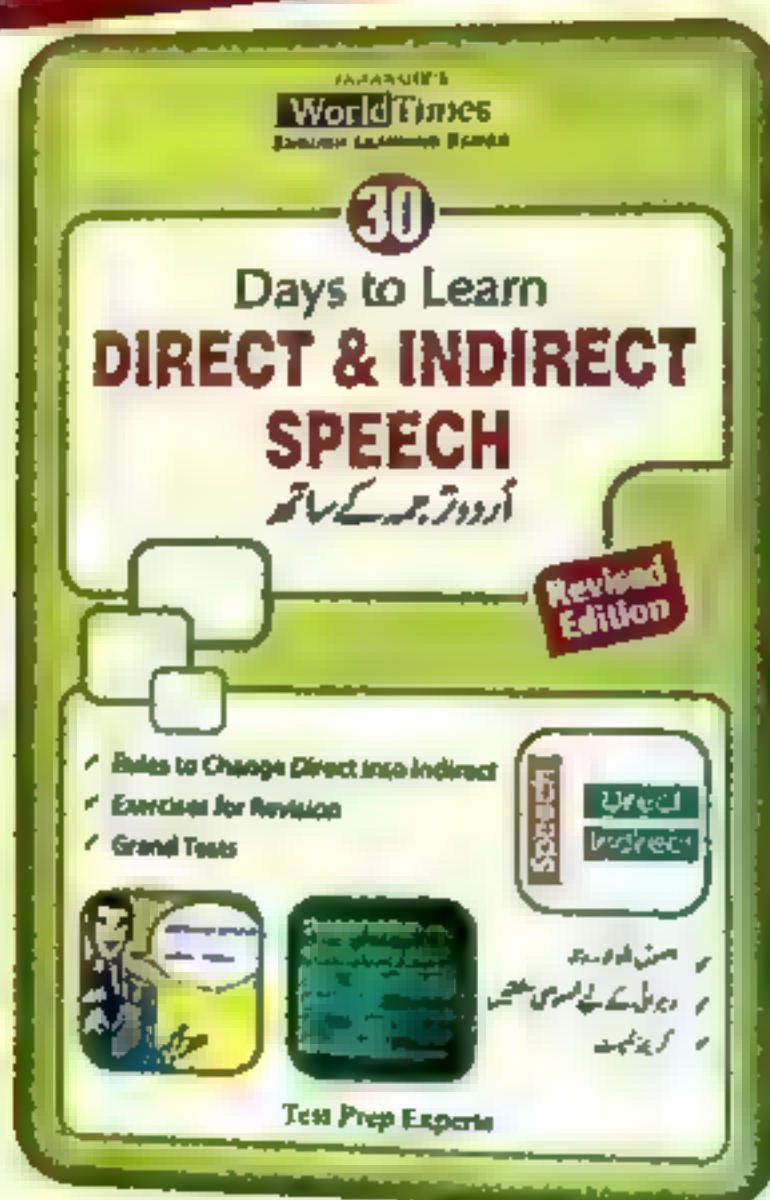
Meanwhile, a 100% literacy rate is not the village's only achievement. The police station of this model village has not registered a single criminal case in the last 100 years, which shows how being responsible for other people's rights is everyone's concern. The reason is that the people have a strong network of communication passed down by their ancestors. No one tries to cross the line when it comes to maintaining law and order. This is the rule that has enabled the village to attain a 0% crime rate. ■

Bestsellers

WorldTimes



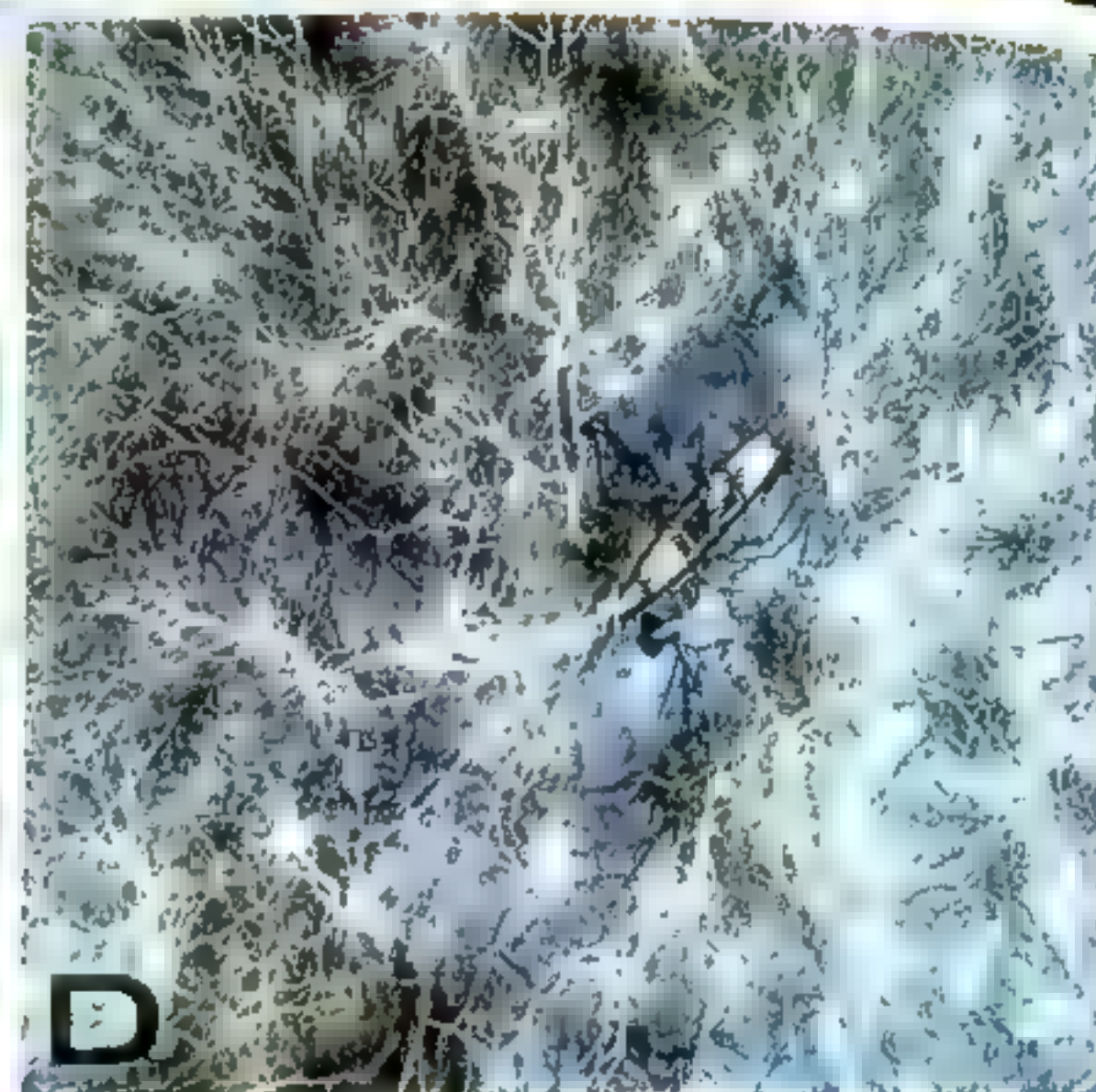
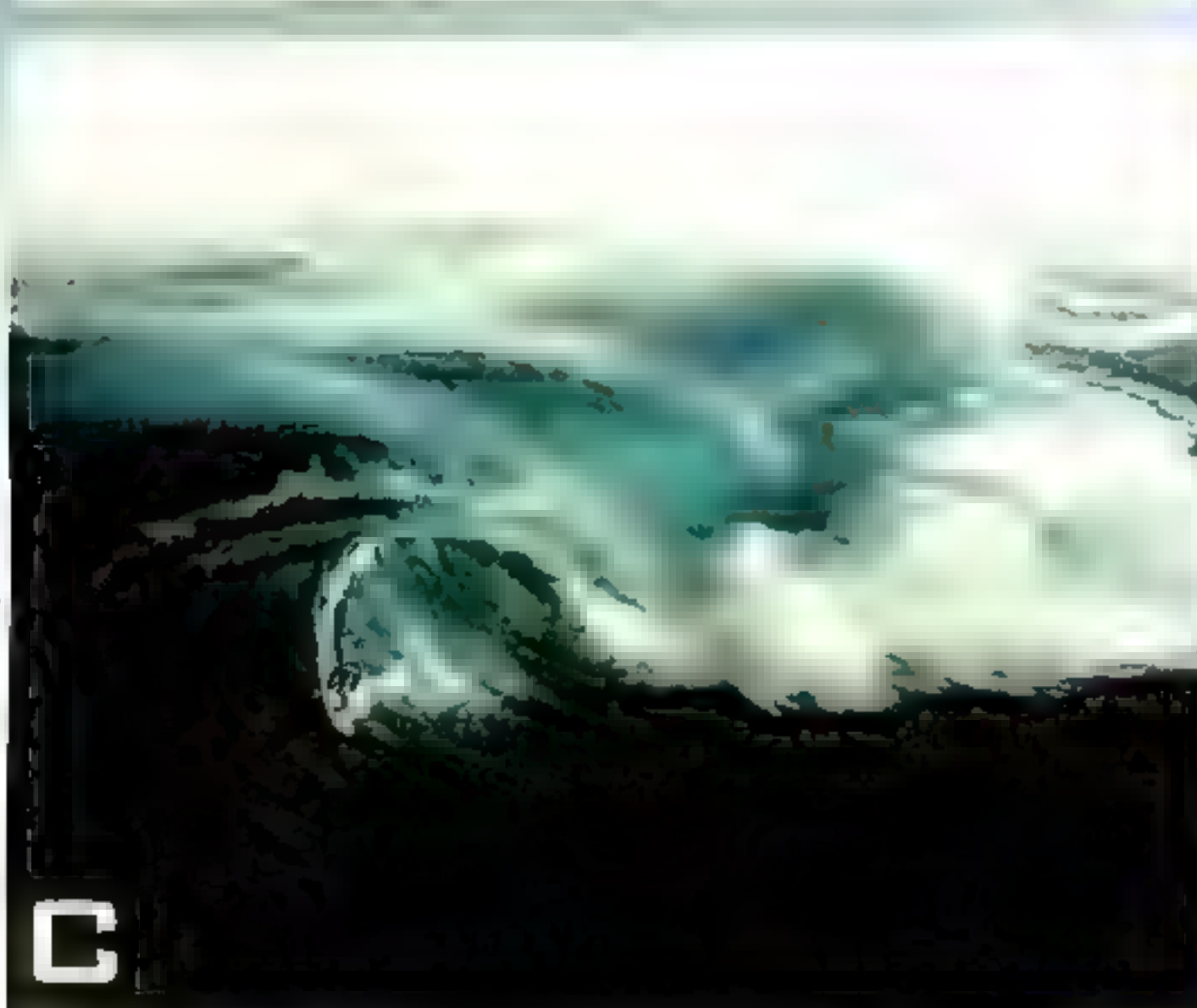
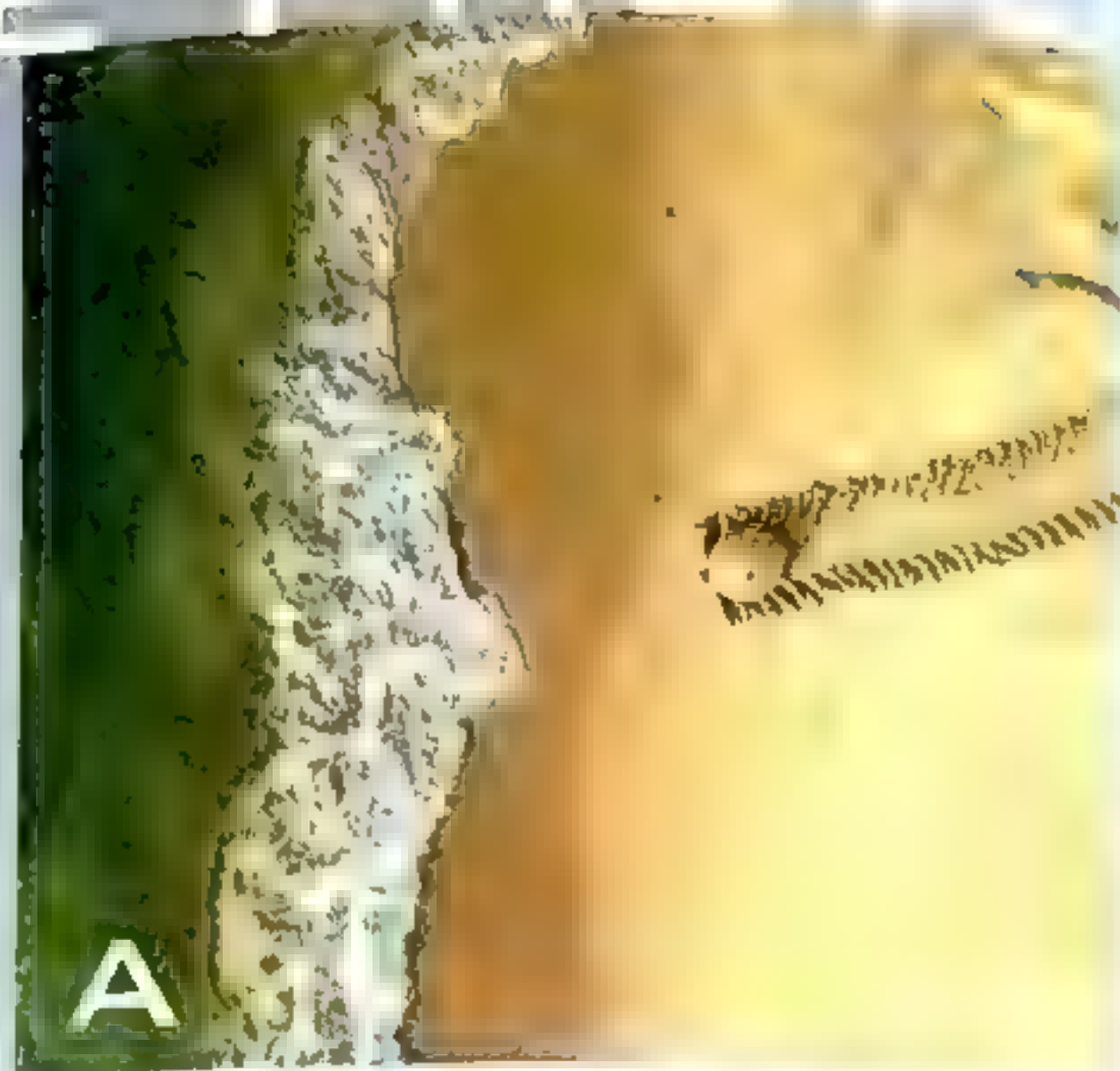
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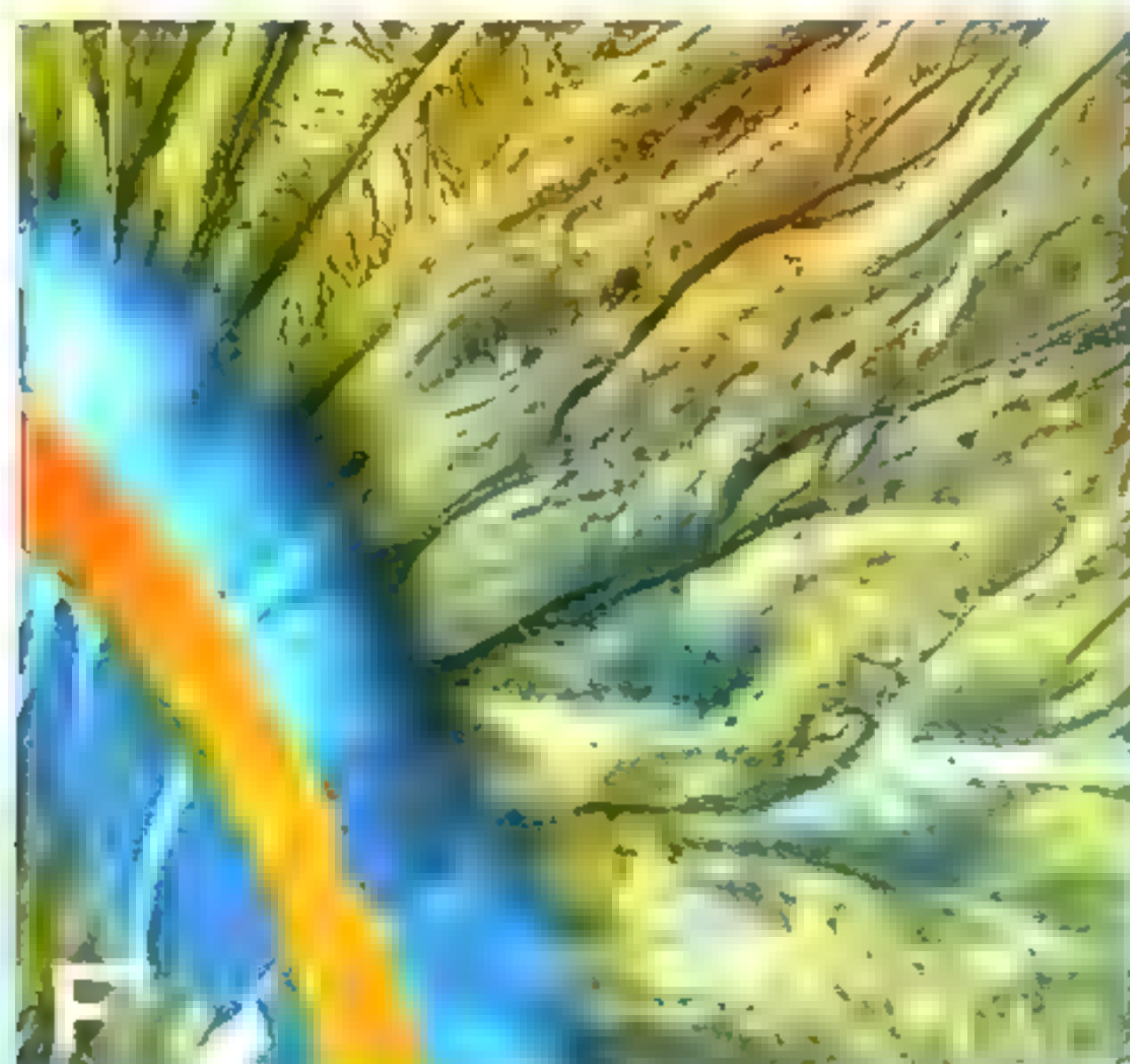
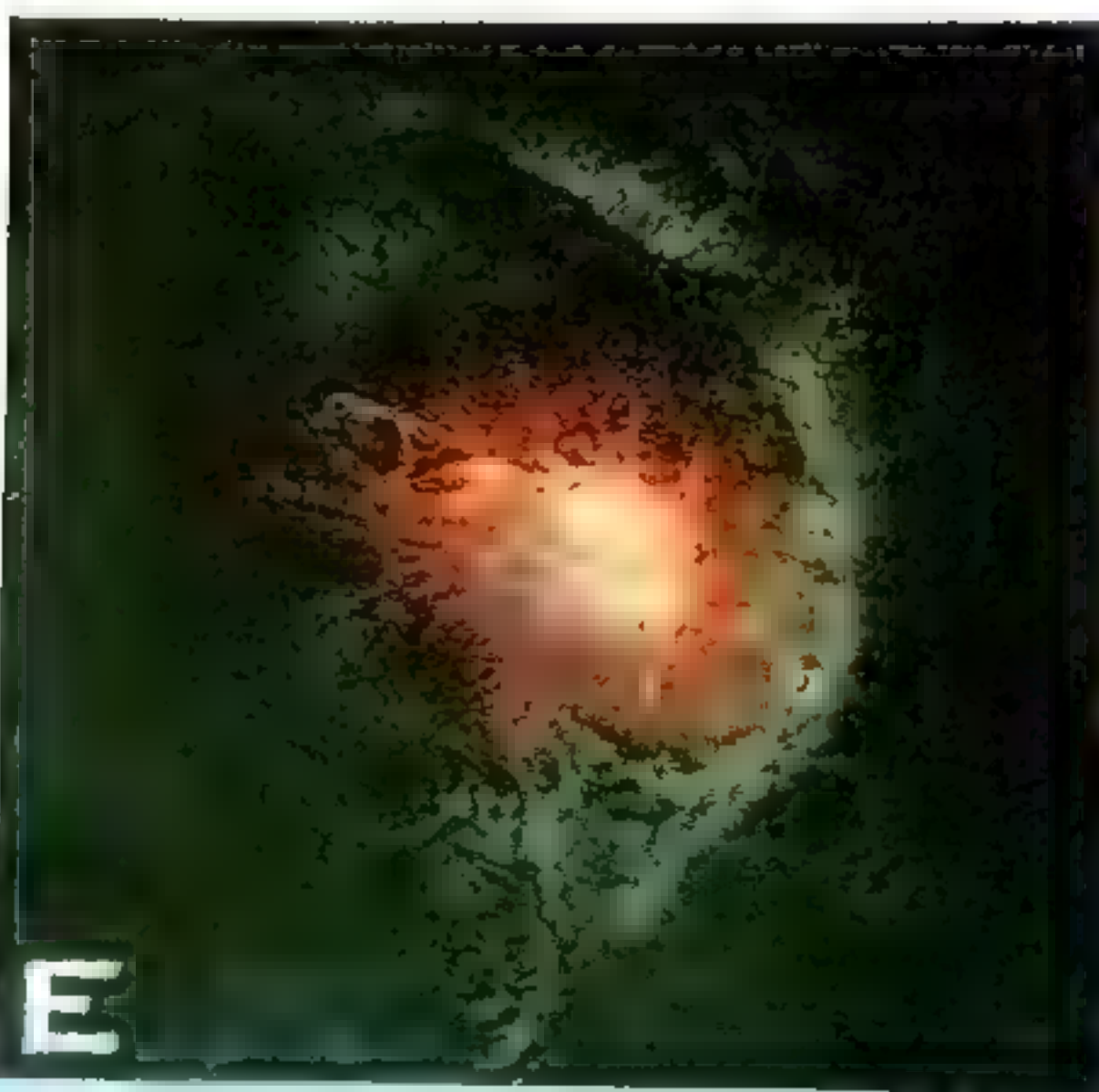
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DRONE PHOTO AWARDS 2021

OVERALL WINNER



Part of the Siena Awards, the International Drone Photo Awards are a celebration of aerial photography. Now in its fourth year, the Drone Photo Awards has quickly become one of the most spectacular aerial photography competitions on the calendar. This year the coveted awards saw tens of thousands of images submitted by photographers from 102 countries. The contest spans seven categories representing all the usual suspects: People, Nature, Wildlife, Abstract, etc. This year's winners raise the bar for the art of drone photography, from an incredible closeup of a polar bear taking a nap, to a mind-bendingly surreal glimpse inside an erupting volcano.



Overall Winner: Pink-Footed Geese Meeting the Winter

This year's overall winner went to a Norwegian photographer Terje Kolass for an impressively immersive shot of pink-footed geese. The image was shot in central Norway and portrays geese flying toward Svalbard, in the Arctic, with the landscape still covered with snow.

A. Category: Wildlife

Winner: Back to Adventure

This nicely-composed shot from Oman photographer Qasim Al Farsi shows a green turtle scuttling back to the sea after laying down eggs in her nest. It was shot over the Oman coastline between Ras Al Jinz and Ra'shad turtle reserve, where Qasim Al Farsi also shoots landscape, architecture, travel photography projects.

B. Category: Urban

Winner: Metaphorical Statement about City and Winter

The winning shot in the urban category, captured by Russian aerial and architectural photographer Sergei Polataev, shows a 500-year-old stone tower in the Moscow region, with a large power plant in the background. The steam from the cooling towers is particularly dense due to low temperatures.

C. Category: Sport

Winner: Gold at the End of the Rainbow

Shot by an Australian photographer Phil De Glanville, who is also a graphic designer, his picture shows surfer Dale Henry escaping a monster wave off the coast of South West Western Australia, and is all the more impressive considering Phil de Glanville only picked up his first drone a couple of years ago.

D. Category: People

Winner: Fishing in Mangrove Forest

While it resembles the brain (taken by Vietnamese snapper Trung Pham Bu), it doesn't look much like the neurons of a human brain. It actually shows a fisherman fishing for fish in the mangrove forest in the second of two islands in the Phu Quoc province of Vietnam. Mangroves lose all their leaves and turn white during winter, hence their brain-like resemblance from above.

E. Category: Nature

Winner: Extragastric

American photographer Martin Sanchez managed to capture this shot inside an erupting volcano in Iceland. It captures the extraordinary moments of the eruption of a volcano from above, offering an exclusive view of the interior of the crater.

F. Category: Abstract

Winner: Poisoned River

The Romanian photographer Gheorghe Popa, also a chemist by trade, shot this natural disaster in the Apuseni Mountains in Romania. The image portrays many small channels full of poison, in an abstract and personal way, it describes the natural disaster produced by chemical waste generated by the mining of copper and gold in the Apuseni mountains in Transylvania.

G. Category: Wedding

Winner: Verso l'Infinito Insieme a Te

From Italy's Tuscan coast, and in particular, on the occasion of a late summer sunset in Marina di Pisa, photographer Matteo Originale took this shot entitled "Towards the Infinite Together with You."

Nord Stream 1-2 Gas Pipelines

4 pipelines from Russia to Europe pass through the Baltic Sea
 The combined design capacity of Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2
 is 110 billion cubic meters of gas per year

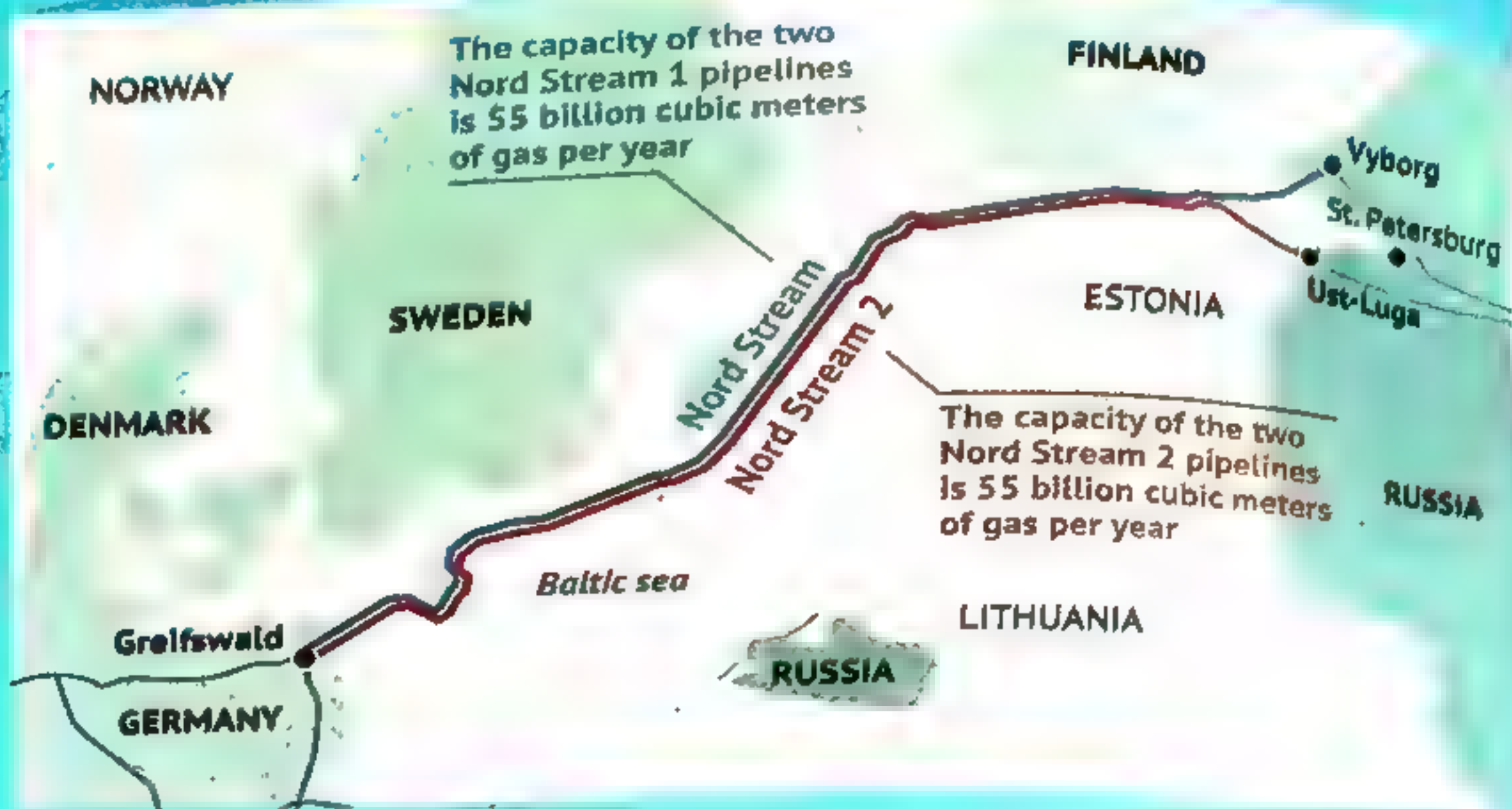
Nord Stream 2

The length is 1,234 km (2,468 km along both pipelines). It is an addition to the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline

The pipeline passes through the exclusive economic zones and territorial waters of five countries

Length of the pipeline, km

Russia	118
Finland	374
Sweden	510
Denmark	147
Germany	85

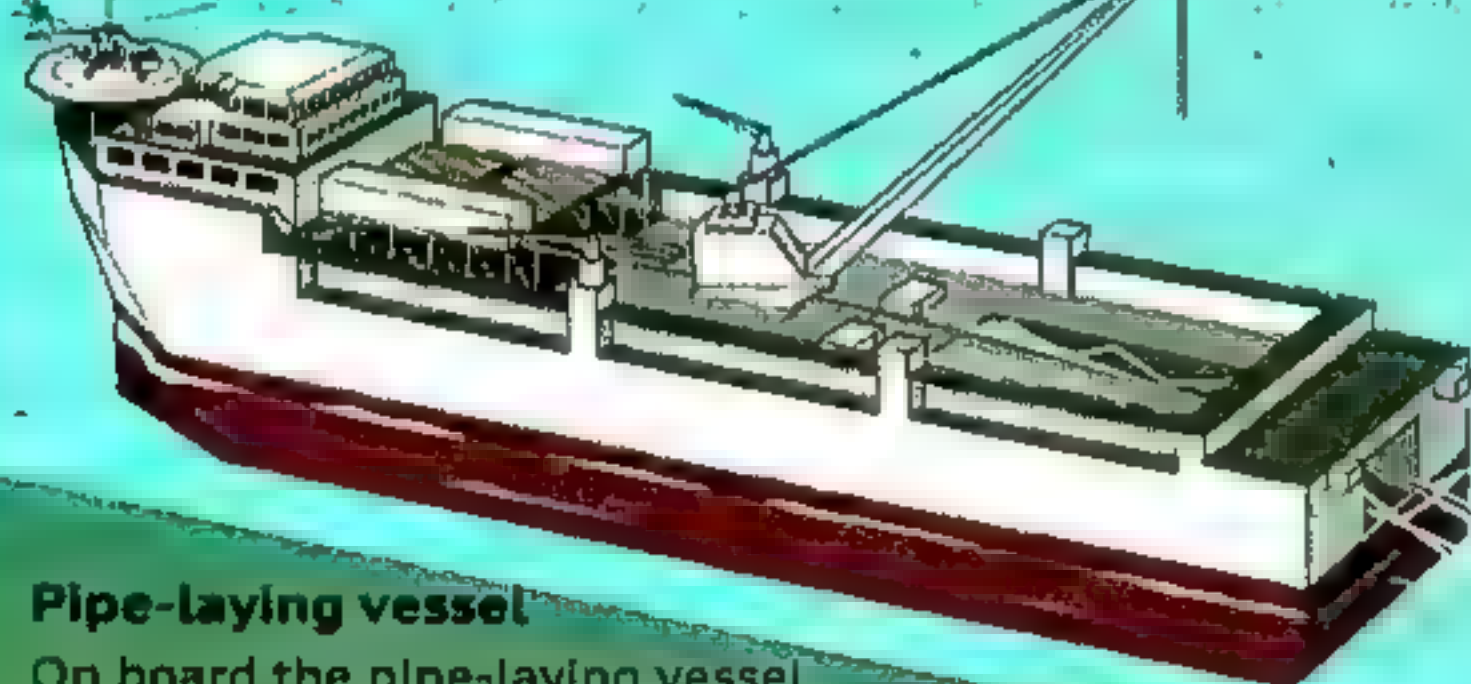


How the gas pipeline was built

Helicopter transports personnel from shore to ship and back

Cranes lift pipes from a transport ship onto a pipe-laying vessel

Pipes, each weighing 24 tonnes, are delivered to the pipe-laying vessel from several storage terminals located along the pipeline route



Transport ship

A stinger supports the pipeline as it descends to the seabed

Pipe-laying vessel

On board the pipe-laying vessel, the pipes are welded into a single line of the gas pipeline and laid on the seabed. The welded joints are ultrasonically tested

The pipes are manufactured at factories in Russia and Germany

Pipe in sections

Concrete weighting coating 60-110 mm

Anti-corrosion coating 4.2 mm

Steel pipe 27-41 mm thick

Anti-friction coating

Inner diameter 1,153 mm

Pipe length 12 meters

Gas pipeline

After laying the gas pipeline to the bottom, its exact location is checked



Research vessel

ROV

A Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle (ROV) with an underwater camera transmits information from the seabed to the research vessel

Coarse pebbles support the gas pipeline along some sections of the route



360 pipes

needed to be delivered daily to each pipe-laying vessel



>1,000 people

simultaneously worked on board the ships



Each line of the gas pipeline consists of 100 thousand pipes



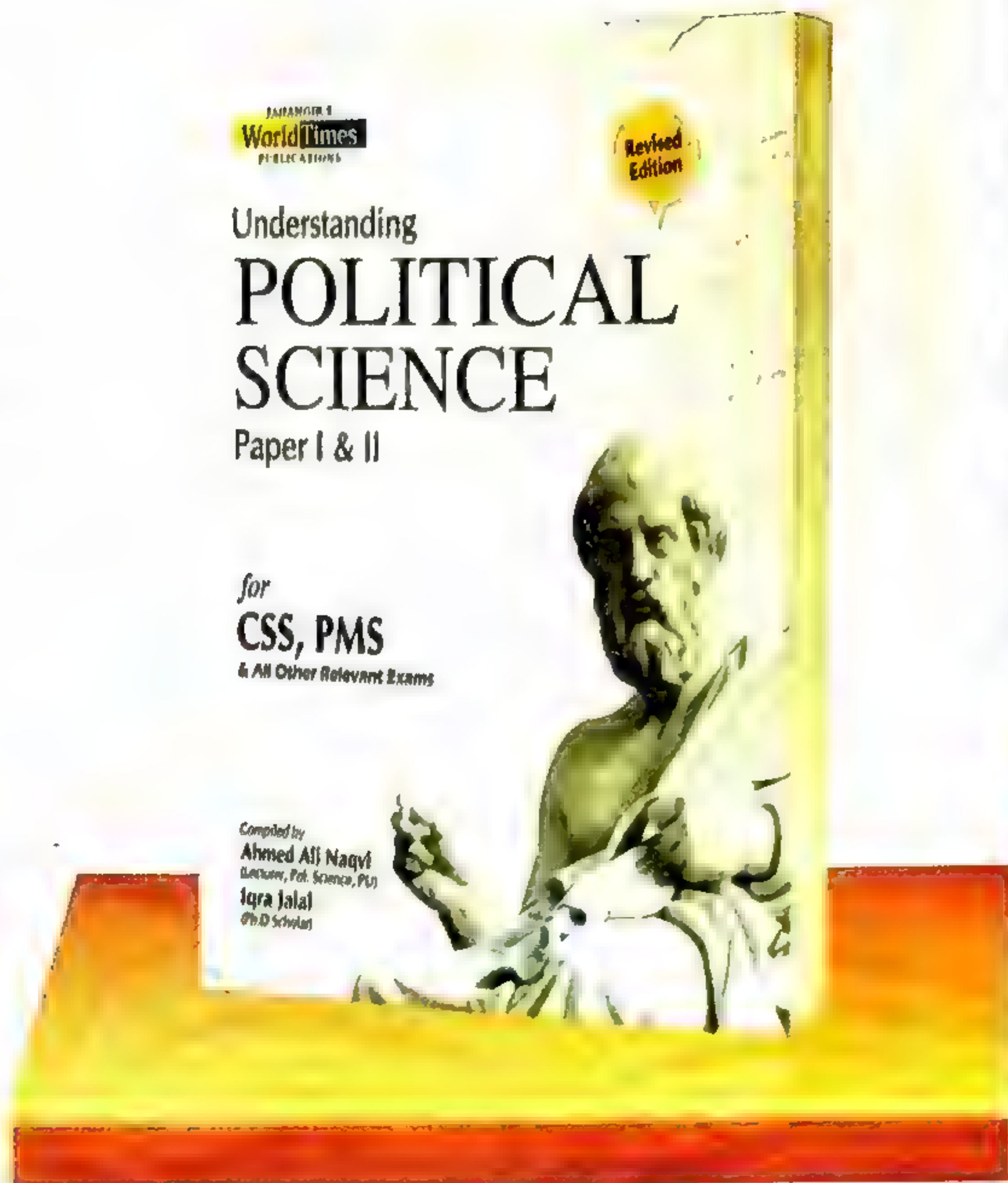
Up to 10 transport vessels ply daily between logistics centres and pipe-laying vessels



It took 18,000 hours of work to build both lines of the pipeline

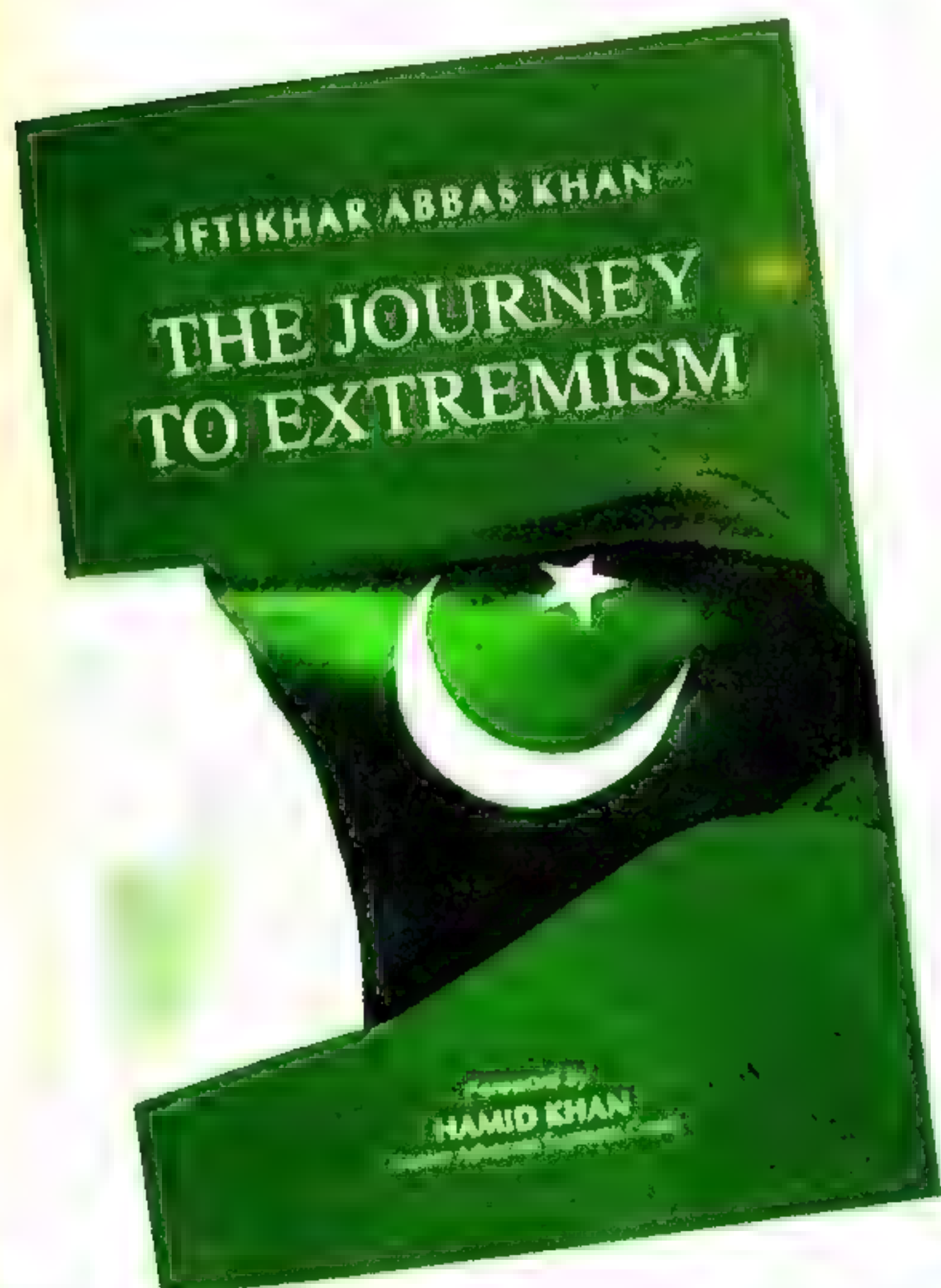
HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Western & Muslim Political Thoughts
- ★ Political Concept (Western & Islamic)
- ★ Comparative Politics
- ★ Political Institutions & Role of Government
- ★ Forms of Government
- ★ Political Ideologies
- ★ Local Self-government
- ★ Global and Regional Integration
- ★ Political Movements in India
- ★ Government & Politics in Pakistan
- ★ International Relations
- ...& much more



HIGHLIGHTS

- Quaid's Ideology of Pakistan
- Religious Parties & Pakistan Movement
- Bhutto's Islamisation in The Aftermath of Debacle of East Pakistan
- Sectarianism and Militancy
- Gen. Musharraf Regime
- Afghan Crisis and Its Implications for Pakistan
- External Forces and Domestic Policies
- Dark Days of Judiciary
- Problems for Pakistan Due to The Taliban Regime
- Brutal Repression In Occupied Kashmir
- Fall out of Attack on Pathankot & Bacha Khan University
- Madrasa Education and The State
- ...& much more



JWT magazine was helpful during my preparation for competitive exams. It provides full insight into many issues of current affairs.

In Conversation with Jawad Hussain Pirzada 35th in Punjab, PMS 2019-20



JWT Editorial Board

J

ahangir's World Times (JWT):

First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

Jawad Hussain Pirzada (JHP): I hail from Jhang. I completed my secondary and higher secondary education from Chenab College, Jhang. Later on, I did Electrical Engineering from Bahria University, Islamabad.

JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam?

JHP: JWT magazine was helpful during my preparation for this competitive exam. It provides full insight into many issues of current affairs. Moreover, I joined WTI for mock exams and interview preparation, and it was a wonderful experience.

JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?

JHP: For compulsory subjects, one should make short notes for every subject. For current affairs questions, one should keep oneself abreast of all national developments. Mock exam and writing practice are highly recommended. Furthermore, one book of reputed foreign author along with some market books should be read to get a deeper understanding of each subject.

General Knowledge paper of PMS is totally different from those of other subjects. Negative marking also makes it more critical. One should prepare GK paper topic-wise.

The

re should be

separate notebook for important and difficult questions so that one may easily revise them.

JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?

JHP: First of all, one should understand the question; rather than starting to write the answer instantly. Sometimes, a question is divided in more than one part, and the examiner demands comprehensive answer to each. Moreover, one should never compromise on quality for the sake of quantity. Also, one should avoid irrelevancy. Candidate's own opinion and analysis do make a difference. Good presentation also helps in

Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	Autad Hussain Pirzada (my father)
Attempts	01
Schooling medium	Both Urdu and English
Your qualification	Electrical Engineering
Alma mater	Bahria University, Islamabad
Your study schedule	7-8 hours a day
Your sources	Recommended books, The Guardian, The Economist, The Diplomat, Dawn, BBC
Your hobbies	Reading, Playing basketball and cricket, and swimming.
Your strength	Analytical thinking, enthusiasm
Fave personality	Lee Kuan Yew (First Prime Minister of Singapore)
Fave book	Fallen Leaves by Will Durant
Fave quote	"Destinations welcome the brave; cowards are killed by the fear of the path."
Secret of your success	Determination, hard work, persistency and prayers of parents
Your role model	Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)

Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Every year, thousands of candidates appear in competitive exams but a small percentage succeeds. Among successful ones, you will find few characteristics: determination, patience, hard work and persistence.

Moreover, English is very important in competitive exams. So, one must focus on this subject. Unfortunately, most of the candidates work on optional subjects whereas English is left

aside. This strategy is a disaster. In prioritization, English must be kept at the top. Writing practice is the key to pass the essay paper. Without it, all preparation is of no use.

Similarly, interview also decides final score. For interview, one should hone one's skills of speaking in English. Also, communication skills are essential to conveying your thoughts more effectively.

getting high score.

JWT: How did you structure your Essay?

JHP: Clear stance or thesis statement is very important in Essay paper. Similarly, strong and relevant arguments to prove your thesis statement are indispensable. Outline should be clear and comprehensive. I emphasize that organization and relevance of ideas are two crucial factors to pass the Essay paper. One should practice essay writing before exam to lessen pressure and fear of it.

JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?

JHP: Undoubtedly, past papers provide a direction. I studied as many papers as I could.

JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?

JHP: Time management is a crucial factor. All ideas and arguments must be concluded in the given time. I never tried to fill sheets with irrelevant information rather I always tried to complete my answer with relevant information. Again, I would suggest quality over quantity.

JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?

JHP: One should always try to attempt papers in English because there is scarcity of relevant literature in Urdu. A commonly-held opinion is that papers should be attempted in English because it also affects the score.

JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?

JHP: Interest and academic background are the two key factors while choosing optional subjects. Firstly, one should opt for subjects that are related to one's academic background. I had interest in Sociology, Punjabi and Mass Communication; so, I chose these. One should always go for those subjects that are of one's interest as it is easy to handle them, and it also helps in getting high score.

JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?

JHP: Credit for my success goes to my family. They have always been supportive to me. I am thankful to my parents for their prayers and love for me. I am also grateful to my dear friend, Atif Ameer (ASP - 47th Common), who had my back at every step I took, during my journey towards success.

JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?

JHP: Indeed, interview is a critical stage of the exam. I prepared thoroughly for all my optional subjects. In interview, questions, mostly, are asked about and from your optional subjects. So, I prepared those from every aspect. I remained composed and confident throughout the interview. No doubt, I missed some token questions, but I apologized in a humble way. ■

My Interview Experience

It was a great experience. One panellist asked names of some books which I satisfactorily answered. Mr Chairman asked some questions about current affairs. Then, another worthy panellist made some argumentation on Kartarpur Corridor and the future of Pakistan-India relations. Some token questions were also asked but I missed them. Moreover, they asked questions related to my optionals. Sociology was one of them, so one panellist asked me to compare Ibn-e-Khaldun and August Comte, the two known fathers of sociology. And Punjabi was another optional subject, so one panellist asked to recite some verses of Punjabi poetry.

I tried my best to convey my views with superlative confidence. Most of the questions were from my subjects. Whenever, I missed any question, I apologized. Overall, it was a good experience.



There is no doubt in the fact that we really need literature in our lives. Though it may not be the essential ingredient of life like water, food or oxygen; its significance for the best quality of life cannot be denied. First and foremost impact of literature is that it broadens our minds and makes us tolerant towards other cultures and beliefs. There is no other enriching pleasure than getting immersed in the world of literature. Literature accumulates the experiences and wisdom of the generations and gives us insight as to learn the lessons from history. It inspires us to learn more, do more and become more. It grooms our personality and builds our character. It creates awareness regarding social, political and economic rights. It helps in developing better writing skills among readers. In addition to this, it introduces us to new concepts and ideas that change and shape our lives. On the other hand, writers find literature as a tool to express their thoughts, transfer their knowledge to the coming generations and leave the imprints of their work forever. I have quoted a few instances in which literature changed the course of mankind. In this article, I would throw light on all these aspects of literature in detail so as to highlight the need of literature in our lives.

Do We Really Need *Literature* in Our Lives?

Muhamamd Asim Jasra



Literature may not be as important as water, food or oxygen for our lives, but it is surely important for improving the quality of life. It is true that being oblivious to the exposure of literature is not a threat to biological life, yet the refreshing impact of literature on the quality of our lives cannot be denied. Benefiting from literature may be one of the major factors to distinguish human life from animal life. Many benefits of literature have been stated in the following paragraphs to show how it is important for our lives. A few instances have also been quoted to prove the point that literature has profound impact on the quality of life.

For the purpose of this article, I would take the broad definition of literature as being the entire body of writings on any particular subject.

Literature has profound impact on our individual and social lives. The aspects of that impact have been explained in the following paragraphs. First I would explain the need of literature in the lives of the readers.

We need literature in our lives because it expands our minds. For example, 'The Alchemist', written by Paulo Coelho, inspires us to keep going despite the hardships coming in the way. It further says that it is always good to have dreams, and one should chase one's dreams. It enlightens us that it is the persistence that brings fruit. By studying literature, we come to interact with different perspectives of life. Our exposure to these perspectives opens our minds. Thus, expansion of minds is the first advantage that comes to our minds when we discuss different benefits of literature in our lives.

Our interactions with literature make us tolerant toward other cultures and beliefs. Stephen R. Covey states in his famous book 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People' that we should not only respect the differences but also celebrate them. We not only tolerate different viewpoints but also tend to appreciate others' beliefs. Study of

literature makes us believe that being different and having different viewpoints is not only normal rather it is the real beauty of human civilization. We come to realize that there are different cultures and different belief systems under the influence of particular set of circumstances and religious teachings available in that particular geographical area. Thus, multicultural acceptance is another result of study of literature.

Literature is needed in our lives because it is compilation of experiences of generations. The literary work of any great author lives forever in the form of books even long after his death. The literature on the subject of scientific discoveries and inventions is an example of this fact. Sometimes, any new discovery or invention is not the result of one person's knowledge and experience. It is because that scientist has benefited a lot from the theories and knowledge of other scientists who had transferred their knowledge to him in the form of books. One invention or discovery, in many cases, is incrementally built upon the experiments conducted by many scientists in different places and at different times. The same is valid for literature on other subjects. In this way, studying literature gives us the opportunity to tap the reservoir of experiences of generations.

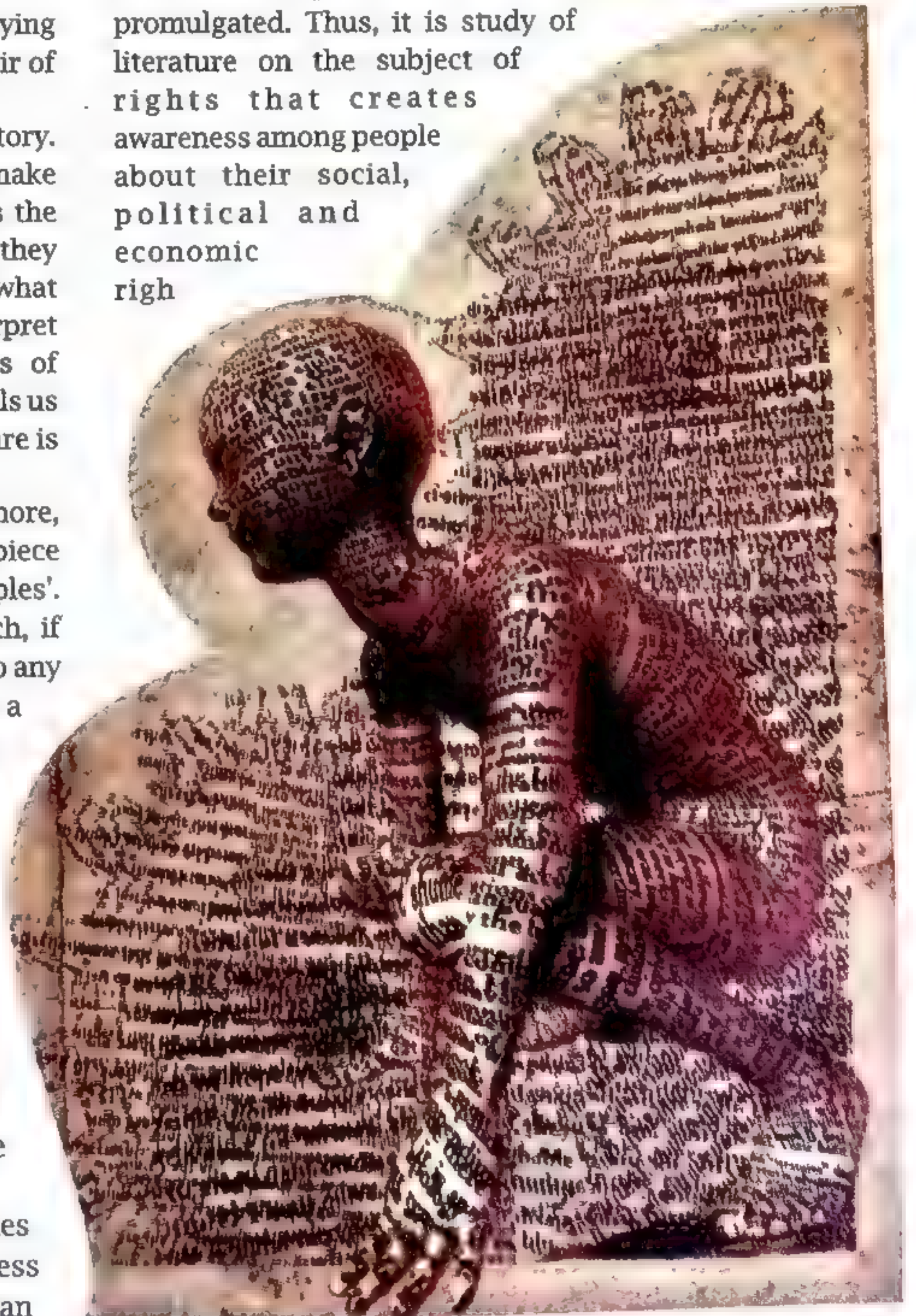
We study literature in order to learn lessons from history. It is said that readers are leaders because they can make informed decisions. It is literature that brings to us the knowledge of the past generations. It tells us how they lived and what mistakes they committed and what strategies they adopted to be successful. We can interpret the consequences of our actions from the books of history. History is the mirror of the past which also tells us about the trajectory of future. Thus, study of literature is beneficial if we want to learn lessons from history.

Literature is useful as it inspires the readers to do more, learn more and become more. There is a masterpiece written by Jack Canfield titled as 'The Success Principles'. This book illustrates 64 principles of success which, if followed in their letter and spirit, can bring success to any person. This book tells us that success is an art and a science too as it is the result of following certain principles. These principles are fundamentals which remain the same for all persons and all professions. The literature on the subject of success tells us that success is neither hereditary trait nor it is by the stroke of luck. It is science that requires dreams followed by subsequent execution of those dreams based on perseverance. Other good literature on the subject is the book written by Napoleon Hill and titled as 'Think and Grow Rich'. Thus, literature inspires us to be successful in our lives.

Literature builds character. It is literature that invokes values of righteousness, justice, kindness, forgiveness and bravery in our lives. We read stories of great human

beings who lived wonderful lives owing to their strong characters. We tend to adopt the same character in our lives. Even some good quotations become the slogan or motto of our lives. The famous quote of Sultan Fateh Ali Tipu, the ruler of the kingdom of Mysore, once said, "It is far better to live like a lion for a day than to live like a jackal for a hundred years." This famous epitome inspires bravery in us. It hints at living a purposeful life irrespective of its duration. Thus, literature helps in formation of a dignified character.

Another utility of literature in our lives is that it creates awareness regarding social, political and economic rights. Only an enlightened person knows about his rights, and this enlightenment comes through literature. When we study literature, we come to know that the human beings got the rights after a continuous struggle. In the history of mankind, Islam as a divine religion gave a system of rights and duties to its followers. Exposure to this divine literature brought new awareness among the human beings about their rights. Rights of children, the elderly, women and prisoners of war were promulgated. Thus, it is study of literature on the subject of rights that creates awareness among people about their social, political and economic rights.



ts. Development of better writing skills is one of the advantages related to the study of literature. For a person to be a good writer, it is required that he should be a good reader. Reading improves the vocabulary as well as the writing expression of the reader. When we study literature, we come to know about a wide range of vocabulary and the expression of ideas in different writing styles. Prerequisite for a good piece of writing is that the author should have clear ideas and concepts. Thus, studying literature gives us clarity of concepts and exposure to different writing styles. In this way, we can develop better writing skills by studying literature.

These were some of the factors because of which we need literature in our lives as readers. We also need literature in our lives as authors or writers. This proposition has been explained in the following paragraphs.

Literature is a very significant tool for giving expression to the thoughts of authors. When an

our libraries. Had this medium been not available, the knowledge of one generation would have lost, and the coming generations would have to take a fresh start in the field of knowledge. By consulting the literature of history, physical sciences, modern branches of knowledge and mathematics, we can have access to the knowledge of all those who contributed to the reservoir of knowledge by the way of writing. It is the writing of literature that not only preserves knowledge but also transfers it to the coming generations.

Writing literature is the most important way for a writer to be alive in the memories of readers even after his death. A famous writer not only gives immortal life to his or her own name but also he keeps alive the characters of his writings—whether real or fictitious. We still read the work of great authors and poets, and we know their names and their way of thinking. These greater authors are alive

in the libraries and in the minds of their readers. Another example of the same kind can be given of the historians who wrote history, and owing to their work, we know a lot about the style of governance of different rulers of the past. Giving the finality to the argument, writing literature

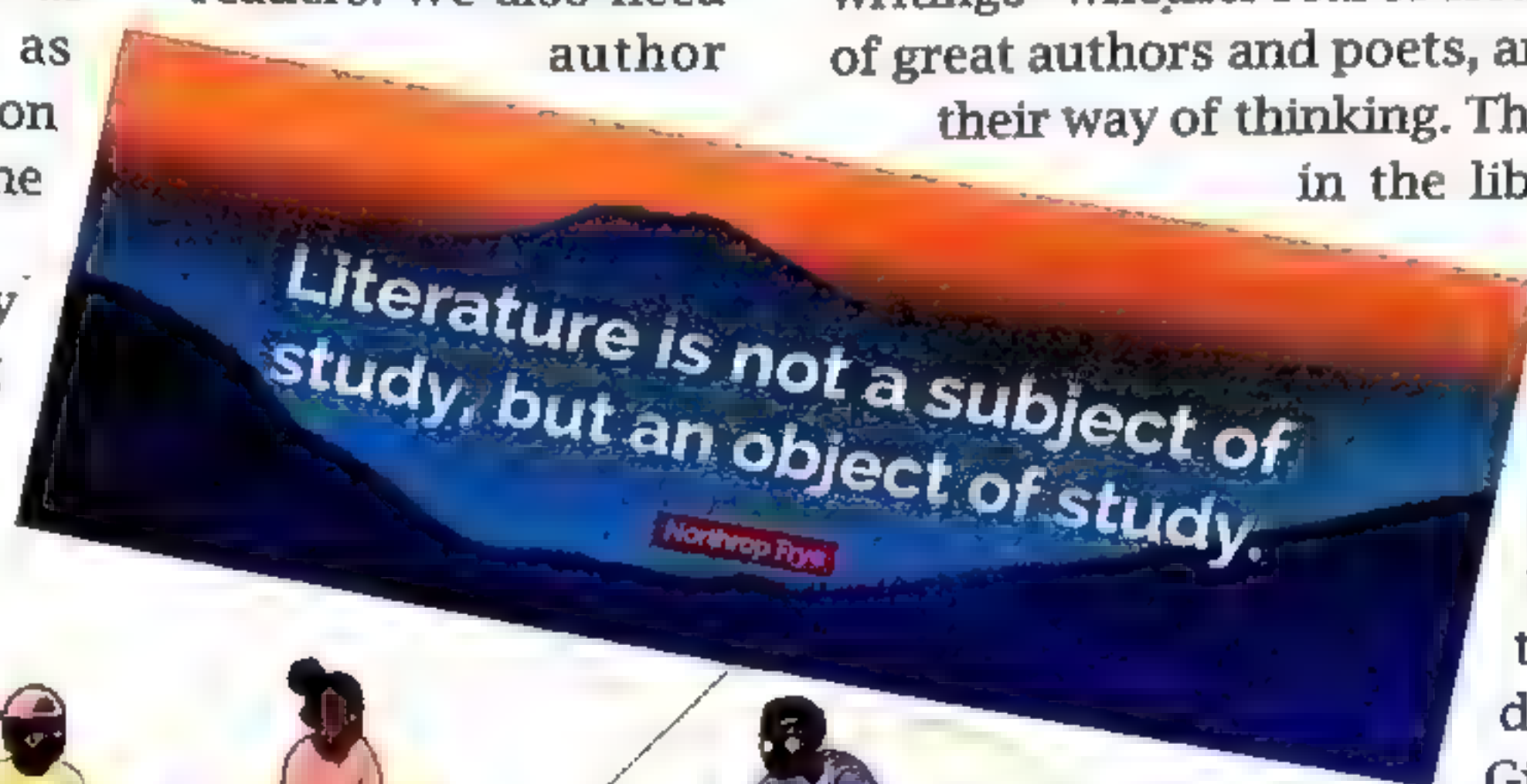
keeps the names and work of authors and the characters mentioned in those writings alive.

I have thrown light on the need of literature in our lives from the perspectives of both readers and writers. Now I will quote some specific instances where literature changed the course of human civilization and history.

The greatest impact on the lives of mankind came from divine literature.

We, as Muslims, believe that Quran is

the book of Almighty which was revealed to the last messenger of Almighty—Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). Holy Quran is divine literature that changed the lives of mankind. The era before the revelation of Holy Quran is called the era of ignorance. The teachings of Holy Quran and Holy Prophet (Peace be upon Him) introduced new religion for the guidance of humanity and removed darkness from mankind. It was the impact of Holy Quran and the teachings of Holy Prophet (Peace be upon Him) that the companions of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon Him) became brave, kindhearted and God-fearing. Their hearts were enlightened with the divine guidance. Thus, divine literature has profound impact on the minds of



author gives words to his thoughts, he purifies and clarifies his thoughts first, and then translates those into words. So, clarification of thoughts and concept is the prime function of writing literature in the lives of authors. When one starts writing, many thoughts come to the mind but only the unambiguous and the powerful thought is translated into words. If this tool of writing is not available to us, many of us would feel that our thoughts and feelings are suppressed. Concluding the argument, literature provides effective tool to the writers to express their thoughts.

Writing literature is a medium through which knowledge is passed from one generation to coming generations. The knowledge of generations is preserved in printed form in

humans up till now and it will continue to have that impact till the existence of life on Earth. Another example of the impact of literature on the lives of the Muslims of the Subcontinent is the literary services rendered by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. The English rulers thought that the Muslims alone were responsible for the War of Independence which they called Indian revolt and therefore, made oppressive policies for the Muslims. It was Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who made efforts to remove this misunderstanding in the minds of the English rulers on the one hand, and on the other, he inspired all the Muslims of the Subcontinent to acquire modern knowledge so that they could compete with Hindus in the

and advised the Muslims to abandon the conservative style of life and adopt new trends of life. These literary services rendered by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan changed the course of history for the Muslims of the Subcontinent. Another example that can do justice with the topic is that of poetry written by Allama Muhammad Iqbal. His poetry fuelled the movement for the creation of Pakistan by inspiring the Muslims of the Subcontinent to work with full dedication towards the creation of a new country under the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He conveyed the message of Muslim brotherhood, self-confidence and glorification of the Islamic culture to all the Muslims. To this day, his work

continues to inspire the Muslims throughout the world. He wrote many poems on the subject of freedom, respect for everyone and importance of perseverance. Poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal continues to have a huge impact on the minds of readers as it inspires courage, confidence and bravery.

Last but not least, a lot is being written on the subject of happiness, success and richness. Many prominent authors of the present era like Napoleon Hill, Jack Canfield, Stephen R. Covey and Robert Kiyosaki have contributed a lot towards this kind of literature. This literature is changing the minds of the young readers and motivating them to learn and be successful in their lives. 'Rich Dad, Poor Dad' series of books written by Robert Kiyosaki gives new

perspective on making money, being happy and enjoying richness. Napoleon Hill gave a new concept of richness being inclusive of money, happiness, success and purpose. This literature inspired readers to be persistent in their efforts, learning from their mistakes and materializing their dreams. Undoubtedly, this literature has immense impact on the lives of millions of young readers all over the world. ■

The writer is a civil servant, belonging to Police Service of Pakistan (PSP).



field of education, business and employment. He not only laid the foundation of an educational institute in Aligarh in 1870s which, after his death, was upgraded to the level of university in 1920 but also wrote many books to enlighten the Muslims. He wrote the famous book titled as 'The Causes of the Indian Revolt' to assert that Hindus and the oppressive policies of the government were equally responsible for the revolt. He wrote another book namely 'Loyal Muhammadans of India' in which he gave a detailed account of the loyal services of the Muslims for the British rulers. His literary services include the publishing of the most influential magazine titled as 'Tahzib-ul- Akhlaq' in which he narrated the ethical aspects of the Muslim life .

CSS 2020 Interview Questions



BOOKISHBANDA

**YOUTUBE
CHANNEL**

Compiled by: Syed Abdul Rahman (PSP)

CSS interview makes or breaks your chances of getting a top position in this exam. A brilliant performance in it ensures that you are placed higher on the final merit list which ultimately lands you in your dream service/group. So, getting a fair idea of the questions panellists may ask during the interview always comes handy. Below, we present a list of painstakingly collected questions asked by the panellists from various aspirants during CSS 2020 interviews.

Pakistan Affairs

Pre-Freedom Movement Era

- > Who was Muhammad Bin Qasim? Where did he land? Name of the port? Name of the king he fought? Name of the battle?
- > What do you know about the Battle of Terrain?
- > What do you know about Qutab ud Din Aibak?
- > What do you know about Slave Dynasty? Name its emperors.
- > What do you know about Razia Sultana?
- > What do you know about Tughlaq Dynasty (Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq policies)?
- > What do you know about Khilji Dynasty?
- > What do you know about Lodhi Dynasty? How did Babur defeat Ibrahim Lodhi?
- > What do you know about the three battles of Panipat?
- > Who had an illustrious career amongst the Mughal Emperors? (Akbar)
- > What do you know about the reign of Akbar (1556-1605)? Who was his predecessor? Who came after Akbar? Who named Akbar as Jalal ud Din?
- > Explain the following: Tuzk-e-Baburi, Humayun Nama, Tuzk-e-Jahangiri, Jahan Ara and Roshan Ara, Todar Mal and Maan Singh.
- > Who built Lahore Fort? Name of another fort built by him, name of gate in front of Badshahi Mosque, who is buried there?
- > Who was Humayun? What was his tenure famous for?
- > Who was Noor Jahan? (Mughal Empress)
- > What were the causes of fall of Mughals?
- > What is the Mughal ascendancy and Mughal demise period?
- > Explain the previous Muslim dynasties in sequence in the Subcontinent?
- > Who was Tipu Sultan? The name of his father & princely state he ruled? How many wars did he fight? What was he famous for? What was his war strategy? How he was defeated by the British East India Company? When did he die and what was his connection with the French?
- > Explain War of Independence? Why did War of Independence happen? What was the date when War of Independence ended?

- > What was doctrine of lapse? Who gave it? Which war happened due to it?
- > What do you know about the Battle of Plassey?
- > What was the First Anglo Sikh war treaty?

Freedom Movement

- > What do you know about the East India Company? Its merits and demerits
- > How did French and Portuguese enter the Subcontinent and during which years?
- > All India Muslim League: When and why it was founded?
- > When did Quaid-e-Azam join AIML?
- > How many times Quaid-e-Azam remained President of AIML?
- > What do you know about Rowlatt Act (1919)?
- > Tell us about the Governor General(s) & Viceroy(s) of India since the formation of East India Company till the independence of Pakistan in 1947?
- > Who was the first Governor General of Pakistan?
- > Who was the last Viceroy of India before independence in 1947?
- > Who was the first Governor General of India after 1947?
- > What do you know about Jallianawala Bagh incident?
- > Name the British Indian viceroy who was assassinated in Subcontinent.
- > What was Nehru Report and its points? Tell its exact date?
- > When was Nehru the Prime Minister of India?
- > Explain the 14 points of Quaid-e-Azam?
- > When was Deliverance Day, exact date?
- > Describe Pakistan's long history?
- > Who was Maulana Moudoodi?
- > Who was the administrator of India before the 1st Governor General?
- > How many were the Princely States at the time of independence?
- > Which states acceded to Pakistan at the time of independence? In which sequence?
- > Who was Rabindra Nath Tagore?
- > Who drafted the Pakistan Resolution?
- > What do you know about the 3rd June plan? Why did Nehru change the map which was on it?
- > What was Boundary Commission? Name the members of Boundary Commis-

sion?

>Who was Lord Mountbatten?

Post-Independence

- >What do you know about the Basic Democracies?
- >What do you know about the 1956 Constitution and the 1963 Constitution?
- >What do you know about the secession of East Pakistan and One Unit?
- >How many Governors General did Pakistan have? Name them?
- >Who was the first President of Pakistan?
- >Name the Presidents of Pakistan & their tenure.
- >When were the first elections of Pakistan conducted?
- >Name the first ten Prime Ministers of Pakistan.
- >What do you know about the Marshal Laws enforced in Pakistan?
- >How many Prime Ministers worked during Pervez Musharraf's era?
- >Who was the first Chief Minister and Governor of Sindh after independence?
- >What is Line of Control & Working boundary?
- >What do you know about the Kashmir issue?
- >When did Indians land their troops in Kashmir after independence of Pakistan?
- >Explain the human rights violations in Indian-Occupied Kashmir?
- >Explain the political movements like PDM in Pakistan?

Islamic Studies

- >Which prophet lost his eyesight?
- >At which place Adam & Eve met?
- >What is the year of birth of Holy Prophet (SAW)?
- >Who was the Kafeel of Holy Prophet (SAW)?
- >What is Aam-ul-Huzn (The Year of grief)?
- >Tell us about one Surat with Tauhid and its translation?
- >What do you know about Hazrat Musa (AS)?
- >Who was the First Muslim conqueror of Subcontinent? When did he arrive? In who's Reign? Which caliphate?
- >List the years of Umayyad and Abbasid rule.
- >What do you know about Muslim dynasties (caliphate)? Which were the best dynasties? Which city was capital of those dynasties?
- >What do you know about Khulfa-e-Rashideen and their years?
- >Explain the four books of religion?
- >What is the cloth on the Kaaba called? When is it changed?
- >What is bait-u- Mamoor?
- >What is the total number of Prophets mentioned in Quran?
- >Tell us the names of angels of Hell and Heaven?
- >Hazrat Umar's (RA) conversion to Islam, which surah was her sister reading?
- >What was the last Ghazwa of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW)?
- >What do you know about Ghazwa Uhad, Hazrat Hamza's (R.A) death and what happened afterwards?
- >Which Sahabi hadn't seen Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) but was still a Sahabi?

Pakistan Current Affairs / G. Knowledge

- Should we recognize Israel?
- >Should Gilgit-Baltistan be made a province of Pakistan?
- >What is the reason for polarized politics in Pakistan?
- >Who were the spokesperson of TTP & Jamat-ud- Dawa? Who confessed about the involvement of India in spreading terrorism in Pakistan?
- >Name the Defense Secretary and one other person (Senator) of US who exposed Indian involvement in Pakistan?
- >Who was Haider Bux Jatui?
- >Who was Rasool Bux Talpur?
- >Who was GM Syed?
- >Who was Allama Imdad Ali Imam Ali Qazi?
- >Who was Mumtaz Bhutto?
- >When is Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir observed?
- >What do you know about Articles 35-A and 370 of the Indian Constitution?
- >What is primary health care setup? What are its issues?
- >What is secondary & tertiary healthcare setup? What are its issues?
- >What are the manifestations of Pakistan's important geostrategic location?
- >Threat of communism: Is it still there? What was the stance of Bhutto?

Sufi History

- >Who was Ibn ul Arabi?
- >Who was Ibn-e-Khildoon?
- >Who was Rumi?
- >Explain Bullhay shah and Baba Farid, their poetry, difference between them and era?

- >What is Sufism?
- >What is Sufi history?
- >Who was Moin-ud-Din Chishti?
- >What do you know about Rumi and Shams Tabriz?

Accounting/Economics/Business Adminis- tration

- >Who was Fredrick Taylor?
- >What are Porter's Five Forces?
- >What is Public Accounts Committee?
- >What is Wall Street?
- >What are GDP contributing factors? Their percentages share, tell the exact share sector-wise.
- >What is Mercantile Law?
- >Who is the head of audit committee?
- >Your views on the economy of Pakistan after Covid-19 lockdown?
- >What is the national savings rate of Pakistan?
- >Who is the founder of modern economics?
- >What are the trade relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan since the Fall of Dhaka?
- >What is FBR tax target for financial year 2020-21?
- >What is Keynesian school of thought?
- >What do you know about Adam Smith and his book?
- >Where is the economy of Pakistan heading in the wake of Covid-19?
- >What are Companies Ordinance 1984 & Companies Act 2017?
- >What is the difference between independent director and normal director?
- >What are the accounting entries for Share Premium?
- >What is SECP? Its function & when it was founded?
- >What are the main organs of the World Bank?
- >What are the Big 4 Audit Firms in Pakistan?

Gender Studies

- >What is Joe Biden's perspective on gender?
- >Name some notable women from Mughal Era?
- >What is Nature vs Nurture debate in Gender Studies?
- >What is APWA? When was it founded?
- >What is #metoo movement? Name of few people awarded punishment under this movement?
- >What are the four waves of feminism?
- >What are the salient features of 4th wave of feminism? Is #metoo part of 4th wave?

THE INTERVIEW GENIUS

A REFRESHER IN KNOWLEDGE

Especially Written for Aspirants of
CSS/PMS & Other Competitive Exams



Ambassador (R)
Irfan-ur-Rehman Raja (CTP)

- of feminism? Where 4th wave of feminism started?
- >What was Anita Hill's allegation on Supreme Court judge of US?

Political Science

- >How much of a science political science is?
- >Who was Machiavelli? Which book did he write? What you know about his philosophy?
- >How many seats are there in Senate (Tell us category-wise breakdown)?
- >What is the composition of provincial assembly of Sindh seats?
- >What are the divine rights of king?
- >What do you know about Locke, Hobbes and Rousseau?
- >Name some of the kings who implemented/ practiced the theory of divine rights of the king.
- >Which king of India practiced divine rights of king it was evident in his name? (Akbar).
- >Where was King Louis from? Does his name ring any bells?
- >How is Act, Law & Ordinance are different? For how many days Ordinance is valid?
- >Who were Lenin and Trotsky?
- >What is the difference between federation and confederation?
- >What is Hobbes Political Theory?
- >What was Glorious Revolution?
- >Who was Machiavelli?
- >What do you know about social contract?
- >Who was Aristotle?
- >Who was the father of political science?
- >What is Mercantilism?
- >What is Bolshevism?
- >What is Mensheviks?
- >What is the difference in communism and socialism?
- >What was October Revolution?
- >What do you know about the 26th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan?
- >What do you know about the 25th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan?
- >Explain the important articles in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan and what do they relate to?
- >Explain the Schedule 4 & Schedule 6 in the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973.

US History

- >What do you know about the John Jay's Treaty? Its other name & who was John Jay?
- >What do you know about Abraham Lincoln?
- >What do you know about Alaska?
- >What do you know about Virgin Islands?
- >Which treaty ended the 1812 war between US and British?
- >What do you know about the "Era of Good Feelings"?
- >What was Marshal Plan?
- >What were the significant events of 1970s decade in the US?
- >Enlist the details of the Water Gate scandal.
- >What were the important events of 1979 in the US?
- >Which countries did Ronald Reagan call the "Axis of Evil"?
- >What do you know about the Dark Continent and Cape of Good Hope?
- >What was Truman Doctrine?
- >What was Waterloo incident?
- >What was Stamp Act?
- >What was initial drift in USA founding parties (federalists Vs what??)
- >What was the Space race (old and new), when it started and when ended?
- >Four US Presidents who were assassinated. Who was the last one?
- >When was J. F. Kennedy assassinated?
- >What was Monroe Doctrine?
- >What was Woodrow Wilson policy?
- >What was Oslo Accord?
- >What was Camp David Accord?
- >Explain the Bay of Pigs invasion.
- >Explain the Cuban Missile Crisis? Who were the leaders on both sides?
- >By which treaty American war of independence ended?
- >What was Boston Tea Party?
- >Name the US Presidents during the Cold War years of 1980's?
- >Who the three Prime Ministers of Russia during the Cold War?
- >When USSR disintegrated? Who was the Chief Executive at that time?
- >Do you think American society is polarized?
- >US Policies with China, India, Pakistan and Iran.

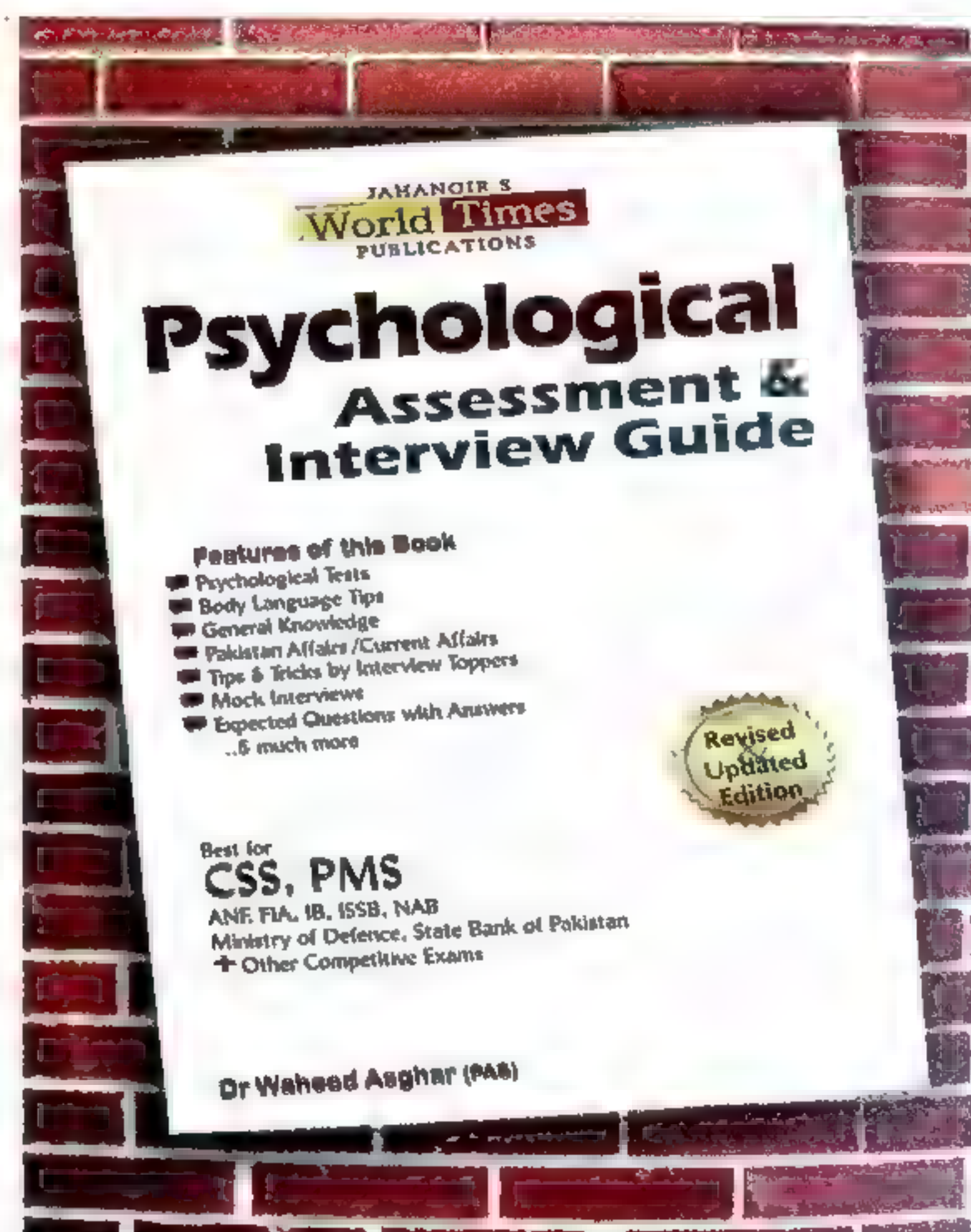
- >What is US-China rapprochement? When did it happen? The significant events in 1971 that led to US-China normalization? What were the tangible benefits for China?
- >What are the recent changes in the US policy towards Iran? What's your opinion that every time the President US is changed, the policy towards Iran remains intact?
- >What is the difference in approach of Donald Trump & Joe Biden regarding Afghan Peace Deal?
- >Explain the policy of Joe Biden for China, Pakistan, India & Iran.

General Knowledge

- >What is UNCIP? Its Full Form? What it does? Its projects?
- >What is UNMOGIL? Its Full Form? What it does? Its projects?
- >What is UFO? Its Full Form?
- >What is UAV? Full Form? What it does? Its types?
- >What is NASA? Its Full Form? What it does? Its projects?
- >What are space shuttles and their types?
- >What was Balfour Declaration?
- >Who was Siddharth?
- >Where Siddharth was born? Do you know about the village of Siddharth?
- >What do you know about Nirvana? Name the things who came centuries after and was not a Buddha?
- >The wars Ashoka fought and another war he fought considered to be among five most important wars?

Current Affairs

- >What is Rohingya Issue in Myanmar? What is the province in which Rohingya Muslims issue exists?
- >Why Myanmar is against Rohingya Muslims?
- >What is the official stance of Myanmar on Rohingya issue and how they defend it?
- >Who is Baghdadi? Is he alive or assassinated?
- >What is the full form of ISIS & DAESH? What they do?
- >Which nation inflicted the most damage to ISIS? What is the religion of those fighters who fought against the ISIS?
- >What is the stance of ICC on Palestine?
- >Where is Gibraltar and what was its old name?
- >Which country is helping Gibraltar to be a part of EU?
- >What's the issue between Spain and US in Gibraltar?
- >Do you know about the legislation in China in 2018 regarding President-ship?
- >What is CPEC?
- >What is TAPI?



- >What is START?
- >What is CASA.1000?
- >What are the implications of the Abraham accord?
- >Who won the Nobel Prize in Literature previous years and 2020?
- >Explain the confrontation between China and India?
- >What is the status of Gibraltar?
- >What is Suez Canal & dispute related to? Its length and location.
- >Explain Biden's Foreign Policy?
- >Explain conflict in South China Sea and stance of USA.
- >What are NATO & WARSAW Pact members?
- >What is Taiwan and China conflict?
- >What is China & India Ladakh conflict?
- >What is Tibet? What is the name of its capital?
- >Which NGO is active against the atrocities in Kashmir?

World History

- >Who was Anwar Sadaat? What was the fate of Anwar Sadaat?
- >What do you know about 1967 Arab-Israel War? Which countries involved? Which areas were captured?
- >What were Camp David Accords?
- >What was Chernobyl Nuclear Crisis?
- >What is London Tower & its significance?
- >Why French Revolution happened in the first place?
- >Explain the connection of Rosseau and French Revolution?
- >What do you know about Napoleon Bonaparte's courts system?
- >What is the importance of Greece in history?
- >What are Peloponnesian wars?
- >List a few ancient Greek states.
- >Tell the names of any five ancient roman rulers.
- >Who was Julius Caesar? Why he is famous?
- >Who was Cleopatra?
- >What do you know about Napoleon? When did he come in power? What are Napoleonic wars? What was Napoleon's fate? What is the period of Napoleon called when he raised an army and came back for Waterloo battle? What was his position? When did he become consul? Which year he became emperor?
- >Who are the philosophers of ancient Greece?
- >What is the difference between Protestant and Catholic Christians?
- >List the countries with dominion status? When? Why?
- >What do you know about USSR disintegration (How & When)? How many states founded as a result of the disintegration?



- >What does USSR stand for?
- >What do you know about Falkland Island issue?
- >Who was PM of Britain during Falkland Island War of 1982?
- >Who was the general of UK during Falkland Island War?
- >Explain the downfall of Spain.
- >Out of the countries which disintegrated from USSR which ones joined the EU?
- >Give us the names of wives of Roman kings?
- >Who was Martin Luther?
- >What are 95 theses?
- >What is Anti-Semitism?
- >What do you know about the Holocaust and Nazi Generals?
- >Describe Holocaust, collectivism?
- >Explain the Hellenistic period?
- >List the British PMs during and after World War 2?
- >Tell us the names of the leaders of Nazi party except Hitler.
- >What is RSS and its founder? Other extremist parties in India?
- >Who were the female prime ministers in South Asia, and of Israel?
- >Explain Roman law and its dimensions?
- >Who was Hitler? Was Hitler a General or a Civilian? Which book was written by Hitler in jail?
- >Explain the alliances in World War 1 & World War 2, name the countries involved?

Geography

- >What are the states of India linked with Pakistan, the major cities in those Indian States?
- >Tell us about the deserts in Sindh & Punjab, also list the cities in those deserts.
- >What are the major states of India and their metropolis cities?
- >What are the major Pakistani ports?
- >What are the countries in the Mediterranean Sea?
- >How many divisions and districts in Sindh?
- >How many divisions and districts are there in Punjab?

International Law

- >What are the sources of International Law?
- >What are the different countries where International Law does not intervene in?
- >What is the difference between ICC & ICJ?
- >Are all states equal in international law? If so, which article of the UN Charter mentions that?
- >What is Double Criminality?
- >What are war crimes?
- >Where is the headquarters of ICJ?
- >What was the judicial organ of the League of Nations?
- >What is the structure of ICJ?
- >What are pending Pakistani cases in the ICJ?
- >What are the organs of UN?
- >What is the number of judges of ICJ?

Environmental Sciences

- >What do you know about Kyoto Protocol?
- >Which gases are declared harmful? And which are the least harmful for the environment?
- >Explain the oxygen and carbon percentage in environment?
- >Which is red planet, why is it called so?
- >Most abundant element in universe and in earth's atmosphere.
- >Who is Greta Thunberg and her illness?
- >What is Montreal Protocol?
- >Name the NGO working on environment?
- >What is the recent international legislation on environment?

Journalism

- >Name four American journalists from 1960's era? In which newspapers did they work? Which scandals were uncovered by them? Which theories did they propose?
- >What is Water Gate Scandal? Which journalist uncovered the scandal?
- >What is Yellow Journalism?
- >What is Pack Journalism?
- >Explain four American journalists from 1960s, their school of thought, their newspapers, the scandals exposed by them.
- >What is Watergate Scandal? President involved. Which year. What happened exactly?
- >Tell the names of four international newspapers. ■

CONFIDENCE

TIPS & TRICKS

1. Write about your top core value.
2. Beat feelings of powerlessness by remembering your past wins.
3. Improve your posture.
4. Consistently mention your top 5 skills.
5. Eradicate fear by preparing beforehand.
6. The question "do you have any questions for me?" is a chance to shine.

You know that playing to your strengths will make you more confident but how do you do it? While some self-help books will tell you to use affirmations, they don't always work unless you utilize the power of your core values.

TO

get started, follow the pattern one Stanford psychologist used for a study on strengthening core values. First, write out everything that's important to you. You might include ideals like spirituality, diligence or love. Once that's done, narrow down just one that you feel is your core value. Then, write an essay on it, including why it's important to you. Although simple, this technique has the power to make you more confident and better at handling stress.

And multiple studies confirm the potential this exercise has to improve your courage.

In a study, one group of participants was asked to write about their core values while a control group wrote about general subjects. Once the essays were finished, researchers put participants in both groups into stressful situations to see how they reacted.

Those who had written on random topics had an increase in stress hormones, while the others, who wrote about core values, had none. So, writing about your core values will boost your confidence.

Consistently utilizing one's power isn't so easy though, so we are going to learn about that in the following paragraphs:

Would you believe me if I told you that you can improve your feeling of empowerment right, now, just by moving your body? You might doubt me but try it out by sitting more confidently and you will notice the difference immediately.

Those who exhibit poor posture should know that it reflects and reinforces their low self-esteem and that it determines their performance in class.

Those with the worst grades in their class are always the students with poor posture, such as sitting on the edges of the room, putting their heads down and not sitting straight. The way people

carry themselves affects the activation of the approach system. So, if you want to feel confident, remember that acting confident in how you sit or stand will work to activate the parts of your brain that make you more courageous!

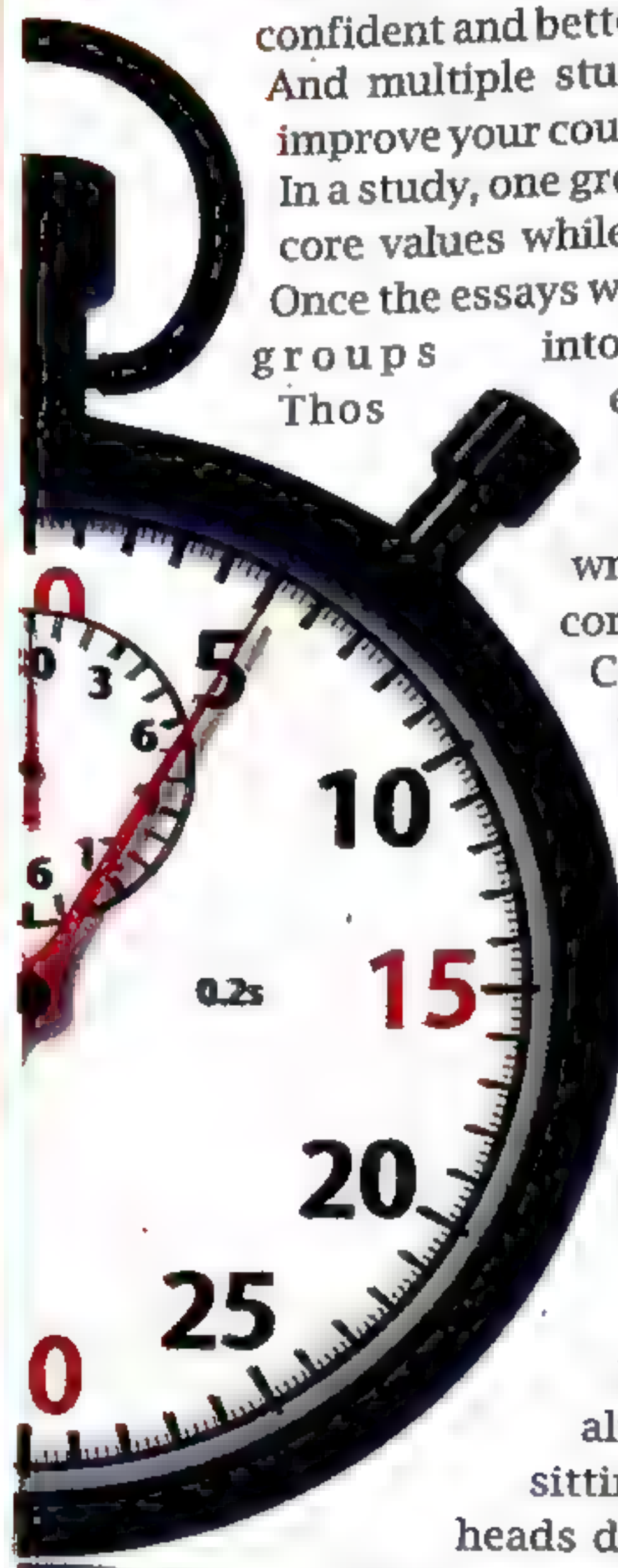
Do you remember your last job interview? Did it make you nervous knowing that you were about to sit in front of a stranger who would be grilling you? Interviewing candidates can make even the interviewers nervous! After all, they are under pressure to make the right decision. Choosing a wrong person for a position costs the company. It's hard for them to sift through so many candidates though, and after reviewing so many, the specifics start to blur together.

That's why you must be quick with your responses in interviews - giving them in less than a minute. And that's exactly what you will learn from Robin Ryan's 60 Seconds and You are Hired! With this book, you will have everything you need to ace your next interview and get that dream job!

Are you ready to gain the confidence you need to get a new job? Let's begin!

Help your interviewer believe that you are a good fit by consistently mentioning your top 5 skills throughout the interview.

It starts with helping the interviewers remember you by focusing their minds on





your strengths. If you think trying to get the job is hard, just put yourself in the shoes of the person reviewing all the résumés. It will be difficult for them to pick you out unless you prepare to do so.

To begin, make a list of your top five most marketable skills. Don't just list any strengths; focus on those that are specific to the job you are applying for. A graphic designer, for example, would want to focus on his/her portfolio and experience in building websites.

Keep in mind that your list may be different for each job. Your primary objective is to focus on what you can do that matches the goals of the company. Once you have got the list ready, practice so as to highlight all five in less than 60 seconds. Then, in the interview, continually mention each of these strengths so your interviewer remembers them.

Preparation kills fear. Every time I have to give a speech, make a presentation, talk to a stranger, or answer an inter-

viewer's questions, taking time to get ready calms my nerves. The reason this works is because when you are in the interview, you have no surprises.

Nothing can catch you off guard if you have put in the work to get ready.

First, look for some of the most commonly asked questions in interviews and practice answering them. Role-playing is not always fun, but it does make a big difference in your confidence levels every time you do it. Also use your research to think of specific questions the interviewers might ask about the products or services of their company.

Next, remember the details of your best performances at previous workplaces. Again, focus on those that will set you apart to succeed should you be given this new job. The main goal of the employers is to determine if you are a good fit, and being more specific will help him/her do that.

Last, get ready to market your specific personality as an ideal worker persona. You might not think it, but interviewers go in with biases that you have to fight. Millennials, for example, may be thought of as dealing with entitlement and technology addiction. If you are older, the employer might see you as less innovative. Highlight your learning and communication skills and success attitude to combat these disadvantages.

Many of us brush this last interview question as non-important. But employers use it as a chance to gain valuable information about your character, so you need to be ready for it. You will also want to use this chance to determine if the job is good for what you want.

To get ready for this opportunity, write a list of 10-15 questions that you can take out when they ask if you have any questions. Doing this shows the interviewer your diligence in researching the company and thinking about how you can help it succeed. And if the interviewer answered any of your questions during the interview, be sure to say so.

Last tip on questions is to never ask about benefits or salary during an interview. Employers use your questions to gauge your intentions. When you ask about money, it shows that you are more concerned about pay than the actual job. ■

The writer, a CSP officer, is also a poetess and life coach.



Haseeb Ahsan

DR

Amjad Saqib, a revered Pakistani philanthropist and founder of Akhuwat Foundation, has been conferred with this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award for his extraordinary contributions to the eradication of poverty in the South Asian country. The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation Board described him as: "A visionary who founded one of the largest microfinance institutions in Pakistan, servicing

millions of families."

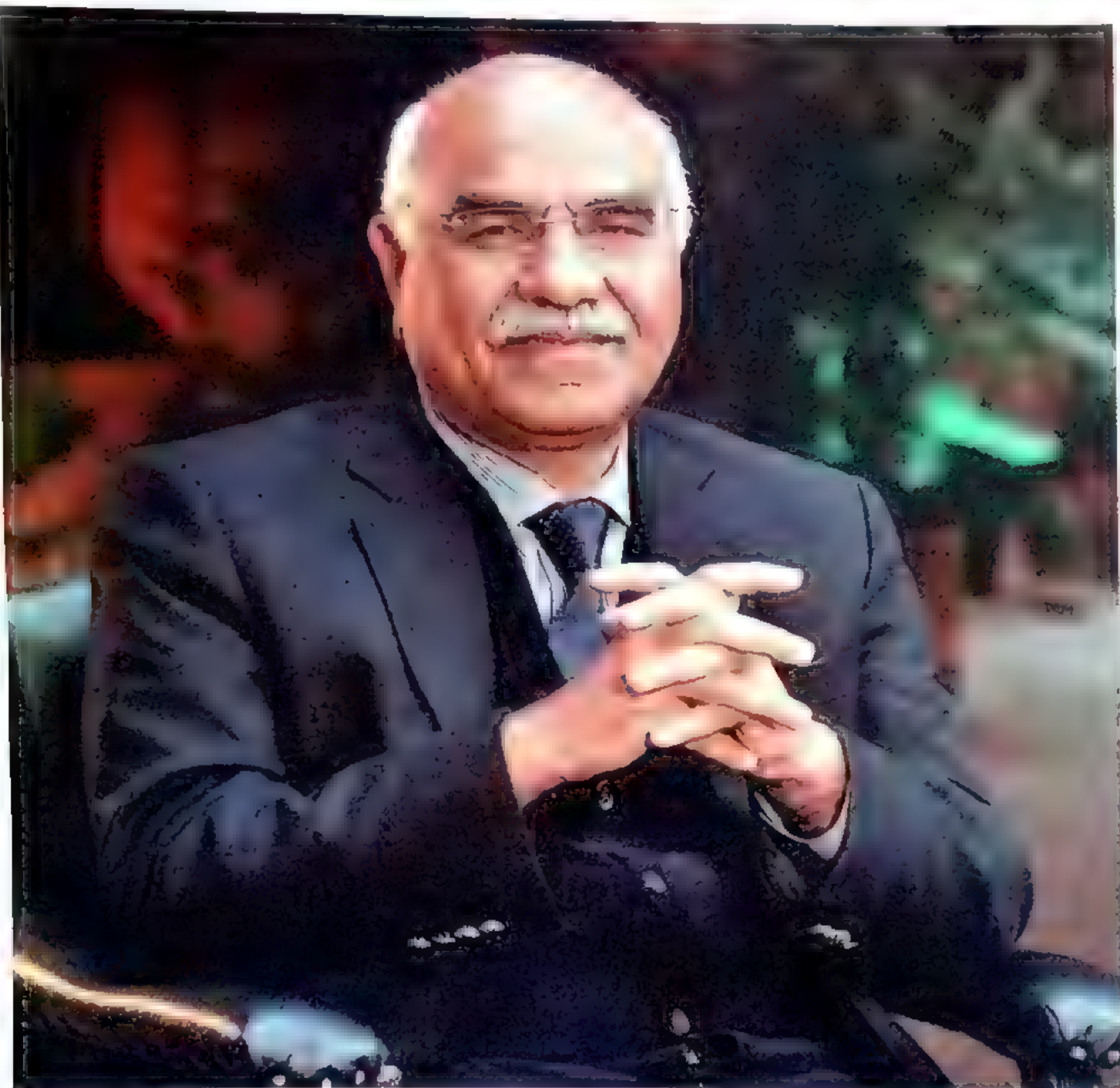
Accepting this unique and highly distinguished honour, Dr Saqib dedicated this award to the poor beneficiaries of Akhuwat and to Pakistani nation. He said this award is endorsement of Akhuwat, an interest-free lending model and a tribute to the compassion and integrity of the nation.

Dr Amjad Saqib's career

Born on 1 February 1957, in Kamalia, a small city of the Punjab province, Dr Amjad Saqib graduated from King Edward Medical College, Lahore, and completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration from American University in Washington DC.

From 1985 to 2003, he served in the Pakistan Administrative Service (formerly District Management Group) after which he worked as a consultant to international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank, International Labour Organization, UNICEF and World Bank. His areas of expertise included poverty alleviation, microfinance, social mobilisation and education.

Dr Saqib is many things – a former bureaucrat, author of eight books



**DR AMJAD
SAQIB**

The social entrepreneur
extraordinaire

The Magsaysay Award is one of the highest honors in Asia. It is given annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities and to the betterment of society. Dr. Amjad Saqib has been awarded this prestigious honor for his exceptional work in the field of microfinance and poverty alleviation. His dedication to helping the poor through Akhuwat has earned him widespread recognition and respect. The award is a testament to his vision and leadership in creating a sustainable model of financial inclusion for the underserved. Dr. Saqib's work has inspired many others to follow in his footsteps and make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. His commitment to social justice and economic empowerment is a true source of inspiration for all who seek to build a better world.



Don't think about the results.
You're answerable for your efforts,
not results.

-Dr Amjad Saqib

recipient of many national and international awards including Sitar-e-Imtiaz of Pakistan, the Islamic Economy Award presented by Crown Prince of Dubai and Thomson Reuters, the Commonwealth's 31st Point of Light Award presented by Queen Elizabeth II, and the Social Entrepreneur of the Year presented by the World Economic Forum and Schwab Foundation, has addressed the UN, and esteemed platforms of schools of Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford.

Akhuwat

Dr Saqib is a development professional and a former civil servant who founded Akhuwat in 2001 in accordance with the Islamic principle of MawaKhat or brotherhood. The organization is now the largest interest-free microfinance institution in the world and works in collaboration with state and civil society.

Nearly two decades after its launch, Akhuwat has grown into the nation's largest microfinance institution, distributing the equivalent of \$900 million and boasting an almost 100 percent loan repayment rate, the award foundation said.

Akhuwat offers loan packages to the poor. It has proffered 4.5 million interest-free loans amounting to Rs128 billion to families all across Pakistan.

Akhuwat uses places of worship, be it a mosque, church or temple, for loan disbursements, according to the award's official website. It aims at transforming borrowers into donors, and fosters diversity and

inclusion, serving anyone regardless of religion, caste, colour and gender.

In electing Dr Amjad Saqib to receive the 2021 Ramon Magsaysay Award, the board of trustees recognizes the intelligence and compassion that enabled him to create the largest microfinance institution in Pakistan; his inspiring belief that human goodness and solidarity will find ways to eradicate poverty; and his determination to stay with a mission that has already helped millions of Pakistani families.

About the Ramon Magsaysay Award

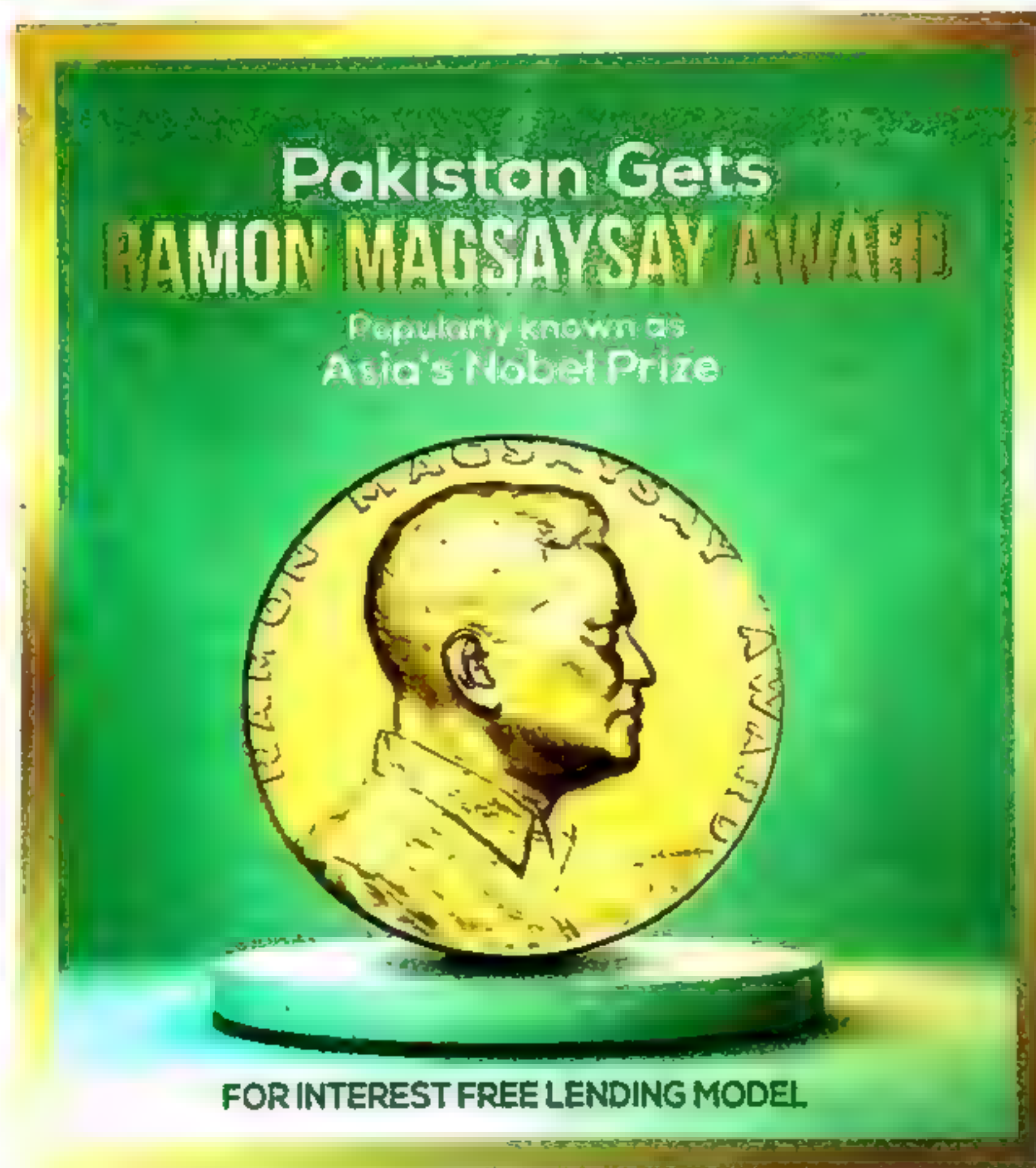
Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honour. It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine president after whom the award is named, and is given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.

Magsaysay Foundation, Philippine, confers three to four awards each year from amongst selfless leaders out of 40 countries of the Asian continent. Few previous awardees

include Mother Teresa, Dalai Lama and Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus.

Moreover, Pakistan's committed rural development leader Dr Akhtar Hameed Khan was the first from the country to win Magsaysay Award in 1963. Later, renowned social workers Abdul Sattar Edhi and Bilquis Edhi were given the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service in 1986. Among other distinguished Pakistanis who won this award for their services to the society include: One of the pioneers of rural development programs in Pakistan 'Shoaib Sultan Khan' (1992), human rights activist 'Asma Jahangir'

(1995), the founder and the head of one of Pakistan's largest public health organizations 'Dr Adibul Hasan Rizvi' (1998), former bureaucrat and a social activist who led the Sindh Katchi Abadi Authority (SKAA) 'Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui' (1999), a German-Pakistani nun and a crusader against leprosy Dr Ruth Pfau (2002), renowned journalist and human rights activist IA Rehman (2004) and an NGO 'The Citizens Foundation' (2014). ■





SUBSCRIBE

The 2021 International Booker Prize



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1. *The Promise* by Damon Galgut

Brutal emotional truths hit home in Damon Galgut's deft, powerful story of a diminished family and a troubled land. The narrator's eye shifts and blinks, deliciously lethal in its observation of the crash and burn of a white South

The final shortlist of six novels has been revealed for this year's Booker Prize. The final six includes debut novelist Patricia Lockwood with "No One is Talking about This". Damon Galgut makes the list for the third time with 'The Promise', and Richard Powers makes his second shortlist appearance with 'Bewilderment'. Also making the list are Anuk Arudpragasam for 'A Passage North', Nadifa Mohamed with 'The Fortune Men' and Maggie Shipstead with 'Great Circle'.

The judges will reveal the winning book during a prize ceremony on November 3rd.

Ayeza Fatima

African family. On their farm outside Pretoria, the Swarts are gathering for Ma's funeral. The younger generation detests everything the family stands for, not least the failed promise to the Black woman who has worked for them her whole life. After years of service, Salome was promised her own house, her own land, yet somehow, as each decade passes, that promise remains unfulfilled.

Writer

Damon Galgut is a South African playwright and novelist, who has now been shortlisted three times for the Booker Prize.

Jury Citation

'The Promise is an expansive family novel that explores the interconnected relationships between members of one family through the sequential lens of multiple funerals.

Death assumes here both a closing but also an opening into lives lived. It is an unusual narrative style that balances Faulknerian exuberance with Nabokovian precision, pushes boundaries, and is a testament to the flourishing of the novel in the 21st century.

In *The Promise*, Galgut makes a strong, unambiguous commentary on the history of South Africa and of humanity itself that can best be summed up in the question: does true justice exist in this world? The novel's way of tackling this question is what makes it an accomplishment and truly deserving of its place on the shortlist.'

2. *A Passage North* by Anuk Arudpragasam

Anuk Arudpragasam's masterful novel is an attempt to come to terms with life in the wake of the devastation of Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war.

As Krishan makes the long journey by train from Colombo into the war-torn Northern Province to attend a family funeral, so begins an astonishing passage into the innermost reaches of a country. At once, a powerful meditation on absence and longing, and an unsparing account of the legacy of Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war, this procession to a pyre 'at the end of the earth' lays bare the imprints of an island's past, the unattainable distances between who we are and what we seek.

Writer

Anuk Arudpragasam is an award-winning Sri Lankan Tamil novelist, who is shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize for his second novel.

Jury Citation

'We had to find a place on the shortlist for *A Passage North*, in which Anuk Arudpragasam turns his poetic sensibility and profound, meticulous attentiveness to the business of living in the aftermath of trauma.

The story unfurls like smoke as our narrator sifts through memories of a lost love affair while turning over in his mind the strange death of his grandmother's carer, a woman irrevocably damaged by the death of her young sons in the Sri Lankan civil war.

In hypnotic, incantatory style, Arudpragasam considers how we can find our way in the present while also reckoning with the past.'

3. *No One Is Talking About This* by Patricia Lockwood

Patricia Lockwood's sincere and delightfully profane love letter to the infinite scroll, and a meditation on love, language and human connection.

A social media guru travels the world, her entire existence overwhelmed by the internet or what she terms 'the portal'. 'Are we in hell?' The people of the portal ask themselves. 'Are we all just going to keep doing this until we die?' Two urgent texts from her mother pierce the guru's bubble. As real life collides with the absurdity of the portal, she confronts a world that seems to suggest there is goodness, empathy and justice in the universe – and a deluge of evidence to the contrary.

Writer

Patricia Lockwood is an American poet, novelist and essayist who was born in a trailer in Indiana and raised 'in all the worst cities of the Midwest'.

Jury Citation

'This is a first novel from a writer already outstanding as a poet and memoirist, and her gifts in both roles are much in evidence in this extremely funny, poignant and challenging book. Patricia Lockwood manages to tell her story in the glancing, mayfly-attention-span idiom of contemporary social media, but she uses this apparently depth-free dialect with precision and even beauty. The drastic shift of gear in the middle of the story, the introduction of real suffering, love and loss, doesn't break the seamless flow of wit; but the book's triumph is in evoking so full a range of emotional discovery and maturing within the unpromising medium of online prattle.

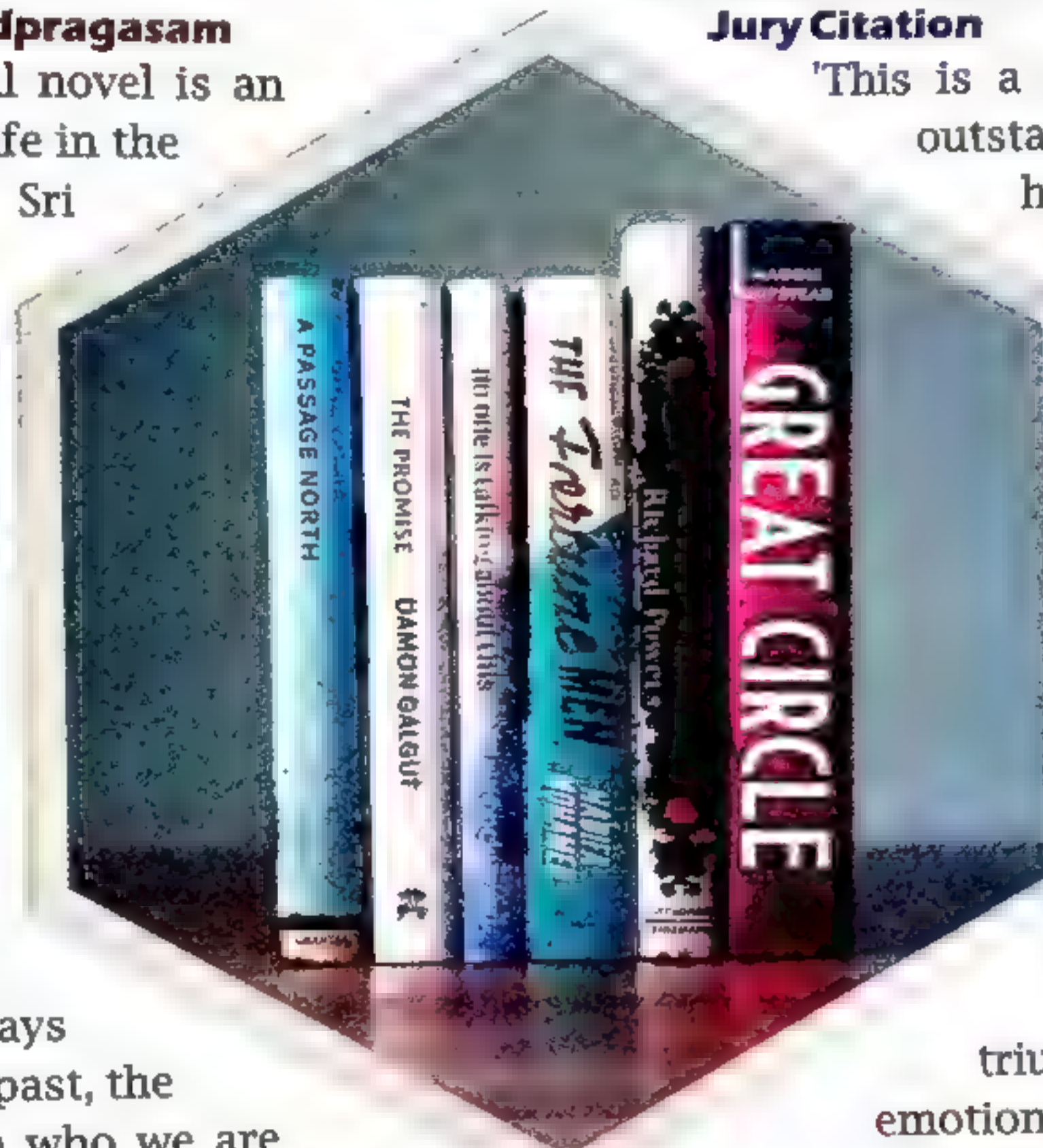
We're left wondering about the processes by which language expands to cope with the expansiveness of changing human relations and perceptions at the edge of extremity.'

4. *The Fortune Men* by Nadifa Mohamed

Nadifa Mohamed's gripping novel about a petty criminal in Cardiff who becomes the last man to be hanged there, wrongfully convicted of murder in 1952.

Mahmood Mattan is a father, a chancer, a petty thief. Many things, in fact, but he is not a murderer. So when a shopkeeper is brutally killed and all eyes fall on him, Mahmood isn't too worried – secure in his innocence in a country where justice is served. But as the trial nears, it starts to dawn on him that he is in a fight for his life – against conspiracy, prejudice and the ultimate punishment. In the shadow of the hangman's noose, he realises that the truth may not be enough to save him.

Writer



Nadifa Mohamed is the first British Somali novelist to be shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Jury Citation

'The Fortune Men takes us to a place we haven't encountered on the page before: the docklands of 1950s Cardiff, jostling with Somali, Welsh, Jewish, Jamaican, and Indian communities, thrown together by the tides of empire and war.

In the story of Mahmood Mattan, a Somali sailor accused of murder, Nadifa Mohamed creates a story as local as it is exhilaratingly global. Grippingly-paced and full of complex, richly-drawn characters, the novel combines pointed social observation with a deeply empathetic sensibility.

About the Prize

The Booker Prize is the leading literary award in the English-speaking world, and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over five decades. Each year, the prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of the judges, the best novel of the year written in English and published in the UK and Ireland. It is a prize that transforms the winner's career.

The winner receives £50,000 as well as the £2,500 awarded to each of the six shortlisted authors. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a global readership and can expect a dramatic increase in book sales.

The International Booker Prize began life in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize. It was initially a biennial prize for a body of work, and there was no stipulation that the work should be written in a language other than English.

In 2015, after the rules of the original Booker Prize expanded to allow writers of any nationality to enter - as long as their books were written in English and published in the UK - the International Prize evolved to become the mirror image of the English-language prize. Since then it has been awarded annually for a single book, written in another language and translated into English.

The Man Group continued to sponsor both prizes until 2019, when Crankstart became the funder, and the prize names reverted to the familiar 'Booker' name alone.

This prize aims to encourage more reading of quality fiction from all over the world, and has already had an impact on those statistics in the UK.

The Fortune Men demonstrates what historical fiction can achieve at its best—to get inside the head of the past—while implicitly yet urgently underscoring the present-day persistence of racism and injustice.'

5. Bewilderment by Richard Powers

An astrobiologist thinks of a creative way to help his rare and troubled son in Richard Powers' deeply moving and brilliantly original novel.

Theo Byrne is an astrobiologist. He is also the widowed father of a most unusual nine-year-old. Robin is loving, funny and full of plans to save the world. He is also about to be expelled, for smashing his friend's face in with a metal thermos. What can a father do, when the only solution offered is to put his boy on psychoactive drugs?

What can he say, when his boy asks why we are destroying the world? The only thing to do is to take the boy to other planets, while helping him to save this one.

Writer

Richard Powers is the multi-award-winning American author of 13 novels, who has now been shortlisted twice for the Booker Prize.

Jury Citation

'Theo is a widowed astrobiologist raising a troubled nine-year-old son tagged with a 'special needs' label. On his mission to help the boy, Robin, he is prepared to engage with experimental treatments.

He dares to decode his son's mind in order to save him, thereby drawing us into the claustrophobic relationship of a grieving man playing solo parent to a vulnerable child. Theo's determination to protect Robin from becoming a prisoner of bureaucracy, something of a high wire act of its own, is beautiful and truly inspiring. That, and his willingness to venture beyond the known world into the cosmos make this book a clarion call for us to wake up and realise what our minds might be truly capable of if we were less obedient to the status quo.'

6. Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead

The lives of a fearless female aviator and the actress who portrays her on screen decades later intersect in Maggie Shipstead's vivid, soaring novel.

Marian Graves was a daredevil all her life, from her wild childhood in the forests of Montana to her daring wartime Spitfire missions. In 1950, she sets off on her ultimate adventure, the Great Circle - a flight around the globe. She is never seen again. Half a century later, Hadley Baxter, a scandal-ridden Hollywood actress, whose own parents perished in a plane crash, is irresistibly drawn to play Marian Graves. This role will lead her to uncover the real mystery behind the vanished pilot.

Writer

Maggie Shipstead is an American novelist who lives in Los Angeles.

Jury Citation

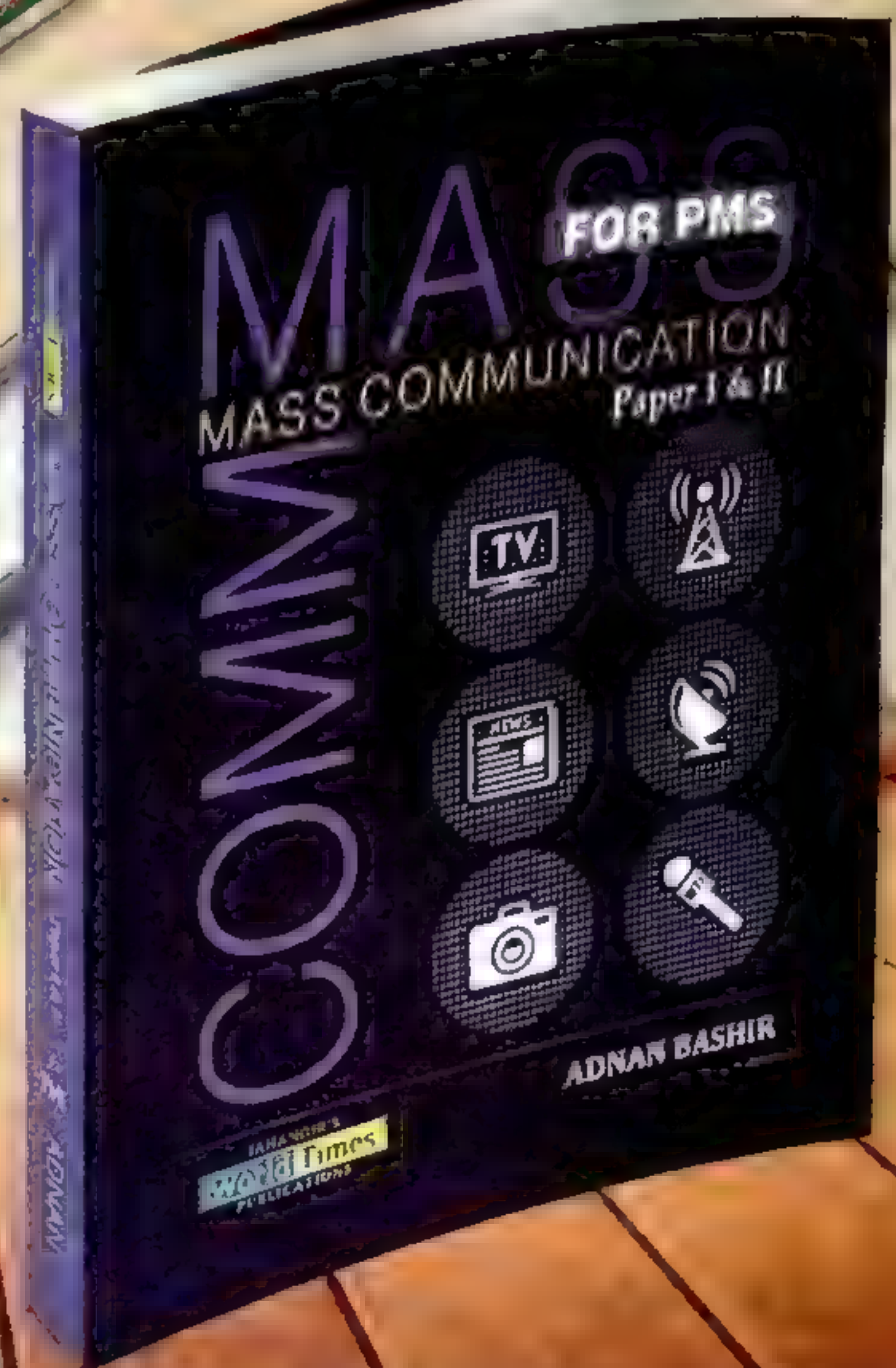
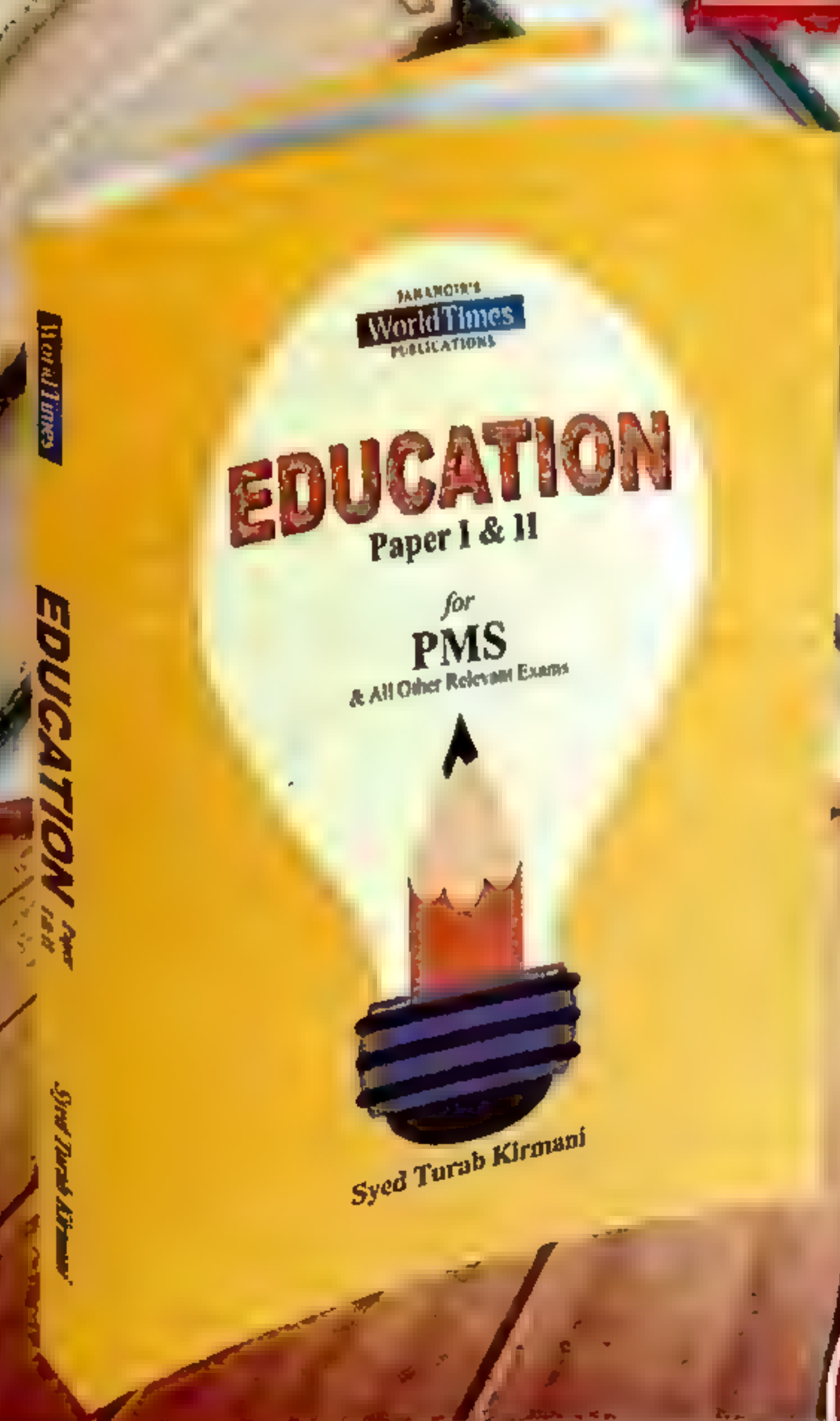
'A book of tremendous narrative ambition and scale, Great Circle pulled us into its vividly-created worlds—from prohibition-era Montana to wartime Britain to present-day Hollywood—and made us want to dwell in them indefinitely.

Maggie Shipstead has an extraordinary ability to conjure characters and settings so fully-realised one feels one knows them—and spills her story out in one gorgeously-crafted sentence after another.

Absorbing in the manner of the immersive realist novels of the 19th century, the book speaks to ever-present questions about freedom and constraint in women's lives.' ■

The writer is a student of UMT, Lahore.

Bestsellers



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HIGHLIGHTS

- System of Education in Pakistan
- Role of Education in Nation Building
- Curriculum Development and Implementation
- Principles of Growth and Development
- Process of Teaching and Teaching Strategies
- Philosophy of Education by Ibn Khaldun
- Educational Assessment and Evaluation
- Comparative Education
- Research Methods in Education
- Educational Administration and Supervision
- Educational Statistics and its Role in Planning
- Higher Education Commission
- ...& much more

HIGHLIGHTS

- Qualities of News Reporter
- Column Writing in Modern Age
- Organizational Structure of News Agencies
- Ethics of Journalism
- Role of Muslim Press in Pakistan Movement
- Strengths and Weaknesses of Pakistan Media
- Media and Social Responsibility
- Difference between Live Streaming and Live Broadcasting
- Communication Models
- Principles of Effective Communication
- General Rules of Conduct in Advertising
- Role of Mass Media in Social Awareness
- ...& much more



Mawra Raja

On the logic of A.V. Dicey and Sir William Blackstone, these prerogatives are residuary and discretionary Crown powers. This makes them exhaustive and limited unlike statutes which are ever-proliferating. New claims of executive powers are capped. Their long judicial recognition is necessary for validation and to guard against abuse of power. To exemplify, let us say that an education minister purports (s)he has the power to fine parents who do not send their children to school. Its determination is hinged on statutory or judicial acknowledgement. If such source-tracing is missing, there is no power to fine parents. Thus, the aggrieved parents have a cause for judicial review against the delinquent minister.

Looking at their discretionary nature, it transpires that their use is not subject to parliamentary, judicial or public approval. However, recent developments show this is not always true. The tale of British withdrawal from the European Union (EU) is evident of it. In *Miller No. 1*, it was held that Art. 50 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union could not be triggered by former prime minister Theresa May without parliamentary approval. Resultantly, European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act, 2017, was enacted.

There is no denying that they are vast powers calling for stringent legal accountability. However, equally important is the executive discretion. To achieve this accountability-discretion balance, the Courts have worked out a

The Royal Prerogative in the United Kingdom

practical formula. They are committed to review all executive powers except ones of political character, including promise of referendum, decision of war and peace, decision of state welfare, etc. Thus, when the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) argued in *BBC v Jones* that it was immune from taxation, as it was emanation of the Crown, the proposition was refused by the Court. It reasoned under the spirit of the Glorious Revolution of 1688 that the Parliament is the only authority for imposing taxes and exempting someone from those. Its power was constrained to check it for correct interpretation. In all other situations, a clear statute was a final word of law. The Court, thus, accepted the power shift from Crown to the Parliament and its subjection to the latter. It also accepted the supremacy of

the legislative will over the executive will. It plainly cleared that governmental powers and immunities are exercised through a statute. They exist by force of law. Therefore, if a statute did not provide for tax-immunity for BBC, the judiciary will not invent it.

Similarly, in *de Keyser's Royal Hotel* when the government decided to pay the hotel owners lesser compensation than available under the statute, the Court refused to uphold it. The reason laid out was that the prerogative could not be used to defeat the parliamentary intent. What the people's representatives uphold, forfeits the executive whim. In *Sandiford*, the denial of the British government to give legal aid to its citizen in Indonesia was said to be inappropriate use of power. It was termed as abuse of power because it

ROYAL PREROGATIVE

- The royal prerogative consists of a number of powers or privileges in the past performed by the monarch but now performed by ministers on his or her behalf.
- Their authority is derived from the Crown, not Parliament.
- Examples of these powers include the rights to: declare war, make treaties, give orders to the armed forces, dissolve parliament, appoint ministers and dispense honours.



It was the king's army, the king's people, the king's taxes; and he who questioned the propriety of the royal prerogative of taking from his people without return or accounting was reckoned, and felt himself to be, a criminal.

was applied rigidly without consideration of the extraordinary circumstances of the claimant. It was held that prerogative power was not subject to the doctrine of unfettered discretion. This meant that for as long as the power existed, it was up to the executive to decide how it applied. The choice was theirs. They could apply it rigidly or flexibly. Either way the exercise of power would be respected by courts to avoid fusion of power.

Other account of judicial inclination to executive will is a matter of national security. It led to non-justiciability of ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's decision to end Trade Union membership of GCHQ employees. Likewise, in *Bancoult No. 2*, it became one of the grounds for refusal of Chagosians' right to abode in Chagos Islands. Furthermore, in *Chandler v DPP*, it became a reason for conviction of demonstrators. Never ending, it was the prime reason behind conviction of innocent demonstrators in *Jones and Ors.*

On the flip side, stand the successful claims. For example, in *Fire Brigades Union* case, discretionary award of

compensation was restrained from defeating statutory scheme. In a similar vein, in *Smith & Others*, the Ministry of Defence was held accountable for poor preparation of soldiers commissioned to Iraq in 2003.

In spite of this judicial check, there are calls for reform of the prerogatives. There are two ways forward: One is the pragmatic approach and the other is the principle approach. The former propagates gradual statutory

control of prerogatives and is advocated by Lord Hurd. The latter suggests wholesome statutory coverage and is supported by William Hague. The first is plausible as it resonates with British values such that it allows room for evolutionary changes as opposed to overnight overhaul. It makes a strong case against floodgates of litigation as it tackles one problematic prerogative at a time. It also bolsters rule of law for it waits for the executive will for reform. However, it falls short of keeping a safe check on government's consistent change of structure of local government. Therefore, there should be hands-on approach to this matter. Nevertheless remaining problematic, executive powers should be rectified through pragmatic approach because it fits well into the fix-as-the-problem-arise constitutional history of the UK. ■

The author teaches jurisprudence and legal theory at Pakistan College of law, Lahore. She can be contacted at: mawraraja@protonmail.com

Covid-19 and Sustainability

A way forward

Iqra Riaz Ud Din

Introduction

The novel coronavirus, which emerged from the Chinese city of Wuhan, has wreaked havoc all over the world. Millions of people have died of the Covid-19 – the disease caused by this virus – showing acute vulnerabilities in the health system, in even those of the world's most advanced countries. The closure of economic activities has further deepened the cleavages between the rich and the poor. Covid-19 has raised many questions for sustainability as well. Sustainability is concerned with creating balance in, and ensuring responsibility for, actions. The concept of sustainability that has emerged in recent times concerns "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Sustainability is a combination of economic development, social justice, and environmental protection. Moreover, this concept suggests that the current socioeconomic and environmental conditions are developed by individuals so people today and tomorrow must create solutions and adapt to sustainability. Furthermore, the concept has been adopted and reshaped by United Nations (UN) through Sustainable Development Goals. The recent crisis calls for rethinking and redefining sustainability.

Social sustainability propagates that all people must have access to basic necessities, and their universal fundamental rights must be protected. Health is considered a basic social amenity. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed that even the developed countries lack a proper mechanism to deal with such a large-scale crisis. For example, the United States has experienced a lack of medical tools to provide urgent medical help to Covid-19 patients. The developing countries, such as India, were hit harder due to lack of medical infrastructure. Even patients with chronic illness faced issues in hospitals and other health facilities due to a rapid surge in Covid-19 cases. Although most countries of the world are vaccinating their people against this killer disease, a source of serious concern is vaccine equity. In January

2021, World Health Organization (WHO) urged the Northern and Southern world to work with harmony in the provision and administration of the vaccine. Lack of supply and inequitable distribution can jeopardize the efforts towards eliminating the virus.

Another equally important aspect is the adverse impact of Covid-19 on the mental health of people.

A new concept of social distancing has been introduced to keep people safe from the virus, but it has increased mental stress. No handshakes, hugs or embrace, reduced human activity, and curtailed social gatherings have led to increased frustration and a spike in domestic violence as well.

But perhaps the worst influence of the pandemic has been on universal education. This has been especially true for developing and poor countries having little or low access to the internet and suffering from other infrastructural weaknesses.

Culturally, children in many poor countries with large family setups became victims of cultural ethos as they were unable to comfortably receive education online. Pandemic showed that technology divide existed not only in developing countries but also in developed ones. Developing countries have experienced dropouts that would ultimately lead towards overall low human capital – another daunting threat to economic sustainability.

Economic sustainability supports the access to financial resources for everyone to meet their basic needs. The pandemic has created an economic fallout globally that contributed towards unemployment due to business closures. Inequalities were further exacerbated by the digital divide; the results of this divide were seen within countries and also within the context of the global North-South divide.

Where marginalised groups suffered the most, the rich industrialists in some areas actually profited from the pandemic. New modes of production were introduced and online educational and business opportunities were also created. That we live in a global village where humanity can be equally affected in spite of stronger economies and defence



mechanisms has exposed the vulnerabilities of the mighty nations. Especially the microenterprises are vulnerable groups.

Inequality has widened due to restricted economic activities. According to International Labour Organization (ILO), the lockdown situation has made as much as 62% of the workforce working in informal sectors worldwide vulnerable to economic shocks. Moreover, the women labour force has a greater risk of economic disruptions, especially in developing countries. International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated that due to reduced economic activity, the global GDP has declined to 4.6%, and borne a loss of \$6.7 trillion. According to United Nations Development Program (UNDP), around 94 million people worldwide have experienced poverty. Moreover, in 2030, people living below the poverty line would reach 44 million solely due to the impacts of the pandemic. On the other hand, according to a research article, the wealthiest people in the United States have become wealthier with the lockdown situation mainly due to online business networks.

Environmental sustainability is another equally significant dimension. It is concerned with maintaining a balance where all natural resources are consumed in a way that they could be present for sufficient use in the future as well. During the Covid-19 pandemic, due to lockdowns and reduced human activity, the environment has improved a lot. Air quality in different areas of the world has improved, emission of greenhouse gases has lessened and pollution was also controlled. The pandemic has restored the ecological system. On the other hand, a huge increase in medical waste and municipal waste has also been witnessed, threatening the environmental balance.

Way Forward

Human health, be it physical or mental, is an integral component of human survival. Health should be added as a fourth dimension in the sustainability framework. Though it is already there in social sustainability, it needs distinctive recognition.

International financial institutions should increase their aid and grants for public health especially for developing and low-income countries. A proper auditing mechanism needs to be devised to check the transparency in spending of these funds in concerned countries.

The world needs to resolve the crisis with solidarity and cohesion. Tariffs and other trade barriers should be eliminated for a free flow of goods and services around the globe. Countries must invest in healthcare systems. This is especially important as many countries, even in pandemic crisis, never stopped spending billions of dollars on their militaries and even on building nuclear arsenals.

Research and surveys must be conducted to analyze the overall socioeconomic situation of the

marginalized class that has been hit hard by the pandemic. Concerned governments should develop and expand social safety nets for low-wage workers, labourers working in informal sectors of economy and women in the form of health insurance, pensions and unemployment benefits.

There is a need for gender inclusiveness as well because women are the most vulnerable ones in the global economic shrinkage. Governments must make policies to enhance the participation of women in the decision-making process. Education and training facilities for women should also be increased.

There is a need for economic reconstruction and structural change. Due to the pandemic, the world has heavily relied on e-commerce that opened a new horizon for economic sustainability. Policymakers should formulate such policies so as to encourage people to move their businesses online.

Governments should support small and medium business enterprises through loans and subsidies. Microenterprises are very important for economic activities.

At the local level, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must collaborate and cooperate to bring changes at the grassroots level. These groups are active in creating livelihood opportunities, medical services and food delivery.

There is a need to shift industries and factories to less energy-consumption strategies. The use of cleaner fuels and technologies must be introduced. Reliance on renewable energy resources is effective and efficient as it would curtail the use of fossil fuels which are a major cause of environmental degradation.

Furthermore, people should be encouraged to prefer public transport to private transportation. Especially in developing and low-income countries, this strategy would be beneficial, as countries like Pakistan and India have high pollution rates in urban areas.

Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed significant threats to the sustainability of mankind. It is mainly true in the socioeconomic domains. Millions have died and millions of other contracted the virus. Vast differences in vaccine administration were seen between rich and poor countries.

Even now in many sub-Saharan countries, only a small percentage of people have received jabs. The pandemic

has exposed the weaknesses of the world's health systems and led to an economic crisis which, in turn, created and widened social inequalities. This crisis calls for rethinking and redefining sustainability. Several policy pursuits could be adopted for a sustainable socio-economic aspect with a special focus on the health system. ■

The writer is an MPhil scholar. She can be reached at: Iqarar2009@live.com



Tawhid

and Its Effects on Man's Life

Tawhid is the main message of Islam and the cornerstone of the Islamic faith. All the Prophets (AS) sent by Allah Almighty to humanity shared the same central message, and that was the message of Tawhid. The meaning of Tawhid is to believe in the Oneness of Allah, His being and His attributes. As the seed is to tree, so is Tawhid to Islam. Just as the tree is a wonderfully developed extension of the seed, so is the religious system of Islam — a multifaceted expression of a single basic concept. For, Tawhid does not mean simply belief in one God, but in God's oneness in all respects. No one shares in this oneness of God. It is to believe and testify with absolute certainty that there is no other partner as such besides Allah, that there exists no other being as High and Exalted that He is, and also to believe in all the attributes of Allah, and there can be none who can possess them.

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Muazzam Javed

Tawhid, a central theme of Islam, means belief in the oneness of Allah. In the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), faith in One God is the most important and fundamental principle. It is the bedrock of Islam and the mainspring of its power. All other beliefs, commands and laws of Islam stand firm on this foundation. All of them receive strength from this source. Take it away, and there is nothing left of Islam. Tawhid as a core belief consists of various principles, which promote spiritual and moral enhancement as well as material success. The bedrock of Tawhid

and a beautiful phrase in Isla
m is al-kalimah
" L a i l a h a

illallah" (There is no god but Allah). By understanding the whole meaning of this kalimah, a believer can further consolidate his firm faith in Allah. In the words of Maulana Maududi: "This kalimah is the expression of this belief, which differentiates between man and man, and a true Muslim from a kafir (disbeliever) or mushrik (one who associates others with God in His Divinity) or dahriyyah (an atheist)."

The Meaning

The word Tawhid derives from Arabic roots ahad or wahdah, which means unity or the One. Ahad (the One) is the oneness of Allah, which implies the essence of all reality premises. According to Ismail R. Faruqi, Tawhid is "a general view of reality, of truth, of the world, of space and time, of human history and destiny." The essence of the reality introduces His existence (wujud) and words (kalam) are eternal. He is entirely Himself and His being is His Essence (dhat). He is neither the Beginning nor the End. He was not born of any body, nor is anyone born of Him. He knows everything through His essence. His essence and existence are identical.

Categories

Tauheed has unanimously been divided into three categories by many scholars:

- 1) Tauheed-al-Ruboobiyyah (Oneness of Divine Lordship);
- 2) Tauheed-al-Uloohiyyah (Oneness of worship and devotion); and

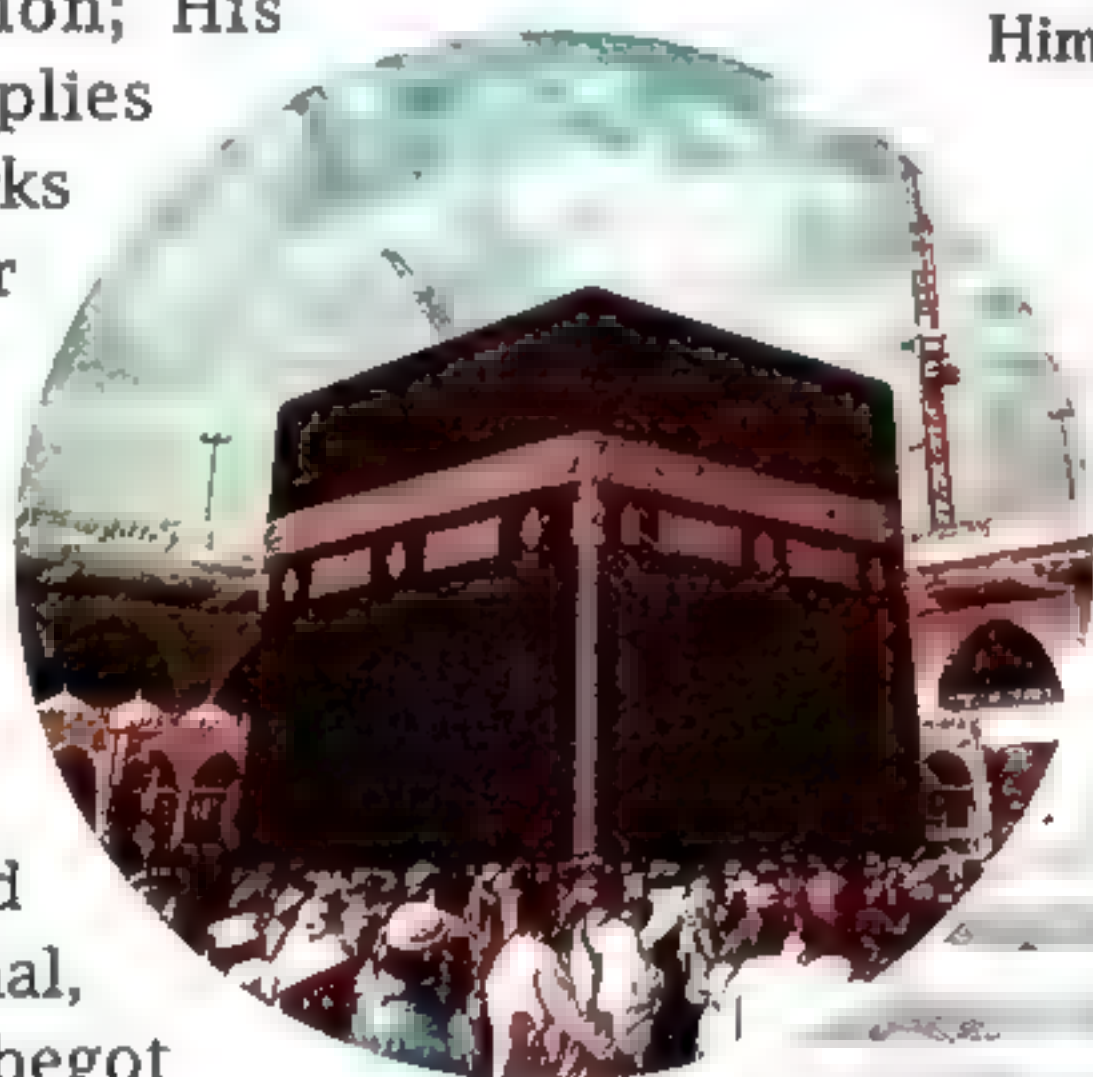


3) Tauheed-al-Asma wa'l-Sifaat (Oneness of the Divine Names and Attributes)

Tawhid in the Light of the Quran

Belief in the existence of Allah and in His Oneness is the fundamental doctrine of Islam. It is inconceivable for anyone who claims to be a Muslim to deny the Unity of Allah. For a Muslim, belief in the Unity of Allah is axiomatic, for which no argument is needed. As, however, the Holy Quran is not only a book of guidance for the righteous, those who fear Allah, but it is also a guide to mankind in general, the Quran contains hundreds of arguments to impress upon the Oneness of Allah. The Quran testifies: "And your God is one God (Allah), there is no god but He, Most Gracious, Most Merciful." (al-Baqarah:163)

The Oneness, according to the Holy Quran, implies that Allah is One in His person (*dhat*), One in His attributes (*sifat*) and One in His works (*afa'al*). His Oneness in His Person means that there is neither plurality of gods, nor plurality of persons in the Godhead; His Oneness in attributes implies that no other being possesses one or more of the divine attributes in perfection; His Oneness in works implies that none can do the works which God has done, or which God may do. The doctrine of Oneness is beautifully summed up in one of the shortest and earliest chapters of the Holy Quran: "Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He neither begot any nor was He begotten; and none is comparable to Him." (Al-Akhlās:1-4)



"Whoever meets Allah without associating partners with Him will enter Paradise, and whoever meets Him while associating partners with Him will enter Hell."

Muslim



tions. Nothing can derail him from his duties. The believer relies on Allah and places his trust on Him. When such person makes up his mind and devotes to follow his Lord's commands, he has full confidence in the support of the most powerful Lord.

ii. Humbleness and Humility

Tawhid makes a believer humble and dependent on Allah. His Lord knows everything whatever happens in this world, big or small, good or evil, gain or loss, increase or decrease, life or death, richness or poverty, and health or sickness. Removing arrogance, egoistic and self-conceited perception in order to acknowledge his given merits and achievements, which are not due to his own worth but gifts from the Almighty.

iii. Morality, Tolerance and Open-mindedness

Tawhid protects a believer's morality and makes him

open-minded, tolerant and caring. This also promotes him to be of good morals in order to construct an ideal society. Al-Ghazzali said: "Good actions, which are praised by reason and the divine knowledge (Shariah) proceed from it, are called good morality. If actions proceeded from the state of evil, they are bad morality."

iv. Ultimate Peace and Contentment

A believer attains peace of mind and body, which purge the mind of jealousy, envy, greed, resentment, spite and voracity,

keeping him away from the temptation of resorting to base and unfair means for achieving success in worldly life. His rank, honour, power, wealth, property, success and failure are in his Lord's hand. Man's duty is to struggle to achieve his goal and fulfil the trust of his Lord.

v. Wider Outlook

Tawhid makes a believer's outlook wider. His vision is enlarged, his intellectual horizon widens, and his outlook becomes boundless towards the Kingdom of Allah. His outlook realizes that all creation, animate and inanimate, praises and celebrates His glory; animate with consciousness and inanimate with its manifested law furnish the unity and glory of Allah. All nature bears witness to His power, wisdom and goodness.

vi. Modesty

The real servant of the Most Gracious walks on earth in

Effects of Tawhid on Man's Life

Tawhid has effects on every aspect of man's life such as individual, family, social, political and cultural, which make a failure or success in his worldly life as well as the hereafter. Some examples of effects are mentioned hereunder:

i. Dignity and Self-Esteem

Tawhid signifies that a believer must believe in Allah as the absolute authority of life, death, sustenance and the possessor of all power. None can benefit nor harm a person's life. This makes a person independent and highly dignified. The believer would not disgrace himself by bowing in reverence to any creature and not be suppliant to anyone else. His personality would not be overawed by any person's greatness. His determination, patience and perseverance encourage him in fulfilling all his obliga-

humility and spends the night in adoration of his Lord prostrate and standing to be nearer to Him. He does not invoke any other gods with Him but says, O my Lord; avert from us the wrath of Hell, which is an affliction so grievous. He maintains perfectly just balance in his everyday life. When he is admonished with His signs, he does not drop down his intellect, as if he is a blind or a deaf. He never becomes proud, haughty and arrogant while an unbeliever becomes proud and arrogant with his worldly achievements and success. Tawhid with self-respect generates in man a sense of modesty, prosperity and unpretentiousness and rectifies his soul.

vii. Optimistic Attitude Towards His Lord

Tawhid imparts extraordinary consolation and solace to a man's heart and keeps his heart full of satisfaction and hope from his Lord. *Mushrik, kafir* and atheists depend on limited powers and in times of crisis, they are soon overwhelmed by despair and they even commit suicide. A believer, who has transgressed against his soul, never despairs the mercy and forgiveness of his Lord while he repents and surrenders his selfishness to His will before the penalty comes on him.

viii. Bravery

intelligence belong to his Lord. No weapon, no man or animal has the power of taking away his life and belongings. A time has been ordained for him, and all the forces of the world combined cannot take away anyone's life before his determined time.

ix. Total Submission to Allah's Commands

Tawhid implies that a believer must submit his physical and spiritual elements to the will of his Lord, manifested and measured by Him. It is the most important effect of *Lailaha illallah* on a believer's personality and spirituality. Committing sin is known to Him either in hidden or open or in a secluded corner or the darkness of night. Thoughts and intentions, be it bad or good, all are impossible to evade from His vision.

Conclusion



Tawhid is the key concept of Islam. It sums up the Islamic way of life and presents, in a nutshell, the essence of the Islamic civilization. It is also the one term which describes the process of the Islamic transformation of an individual or a society. In human history, it presents the crux of the prophetic mission, having been the sheet anchor of all revealed religions. It is specially suited to describe the characteristic and abiding contribution of the last

of the prophets, Muhammad (PBUH), in history. Tawhid, in fact, is the essence of being human for the inculcation of this attitude in man means the restoration of human dignity which has been the central task before all revealed religions. The role of divine guidance in man's life is to remind him of the ways that suit his own nature and the world of nature around him, and Tawhid has always been the essence of such guidance. Tawhid remains at the epicentre of Islamic worldview. It is that which gives Islamic society its identity, which binds all its constituents together and thus makes of them an integral, organic body which we call civilization. In binding disparate elements together, the essence of civilization, Tawhid impresses them with its own mould. It recasts them so as to harmonize with and mutually support other elements. Without necessarily changing their natures, the essence transforms the elements making up a civilization, giving them their new character as constitutive of that civilization. ■

Some Quranic Verses on Tawhid

1. "Indeed, We sent Nuh (Noah) to his people and he said: "O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other *Ilah* (God) but Him. Certainly, I fear for you the torment of a Great Day!" (Al-A'raf 7:59)
2. "And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone)." (Az-Zariyat 51:56)
3. "Say (O Muhammad P.B.U.H): "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him...." (Al-An'am 6:151)
4. "That is Allah, your Lord! There is no god but He, the Creator of all things. Then worship Him, and He has power to dispose of all affairs" (Al-An'am 6:102)
5. "This is the creation of Allah. So show Me that which those (whom you worship) besides Him have created. Nay, the Zalimun (polytheists, wrongdoers and those who do not believe in the Oneness of Allah) are in plain error." (Luqman 31:11)
6. "(Musa (Moses)) said: "Verily, you know that these signs have been sent down by none but the Lord of the heavens and the earth (as clear evidence i.e. proofs of Allah's Oneness and His Omnipotence.). And I think you are, indeed, O Fir'aun (Pharaoh) doomed to destruction!" (Al-Isra 17:102)
7. "O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqun (the pious).
8. "And ask (O Muhammad P.B.U.H) those of Our Messengers whom We sent before you: "Did We ever appoint Gods to be worshipped besides the Most Gracious (Allah)?" (Az-Zukhruf 43:45)
9. ".....Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission?....." (Al-Baqarah 2:255)
10. "....whoever assigns partners to Allah, it is as if he had fallen from the sky, and the birds had snatched him, or the wind had thrown him to a far off place." (Al-Hajj 22:31).

The declaration of kalimah inspires bravery in man. There are two things that make a man coward: Fear of death and love of safety. Tawhid removes the above cowardly perceptions from man's mind. His life, property and

The Global Apocalypse of

GLOBAL WARMING

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Introduction

Global warming has long been an existential threat and a daunting challenge to the planet Earth with its devastating impacts. The menace of climate change has been triggered by many a factor, such as excessive greenhouse gas emissions, use of non-renewable energy sources, deforestation and other anthropogenic activities. With all the above-cited factors, the Earth gets warmer, which leads to change in climatic patterns. The looming apocalypse has not only affected ecosystem, biodiversity and carrying capacity of the Earth, but has also massively impacted the overall human life cycle. Of the consequences with potential threats, the planet Earth has regularly been bearing the brunt of wildfires. The most recent and gruesome wildfires of Turkey, Greece, Algeria and other parts of Europe and America are witnessing climate change as a global apocalypse.

Global Warming: Definition and Concept

Simply, global warming is a phenomenon of an increase in the average temperature of the Earth. The concept of global warming maintains that the burning of fossil fuels enhances the levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs)—gases that warm the Earth's surface. It was first proposed in the early nineteenth century, after the discovery of carbon dioxide, oxygen and other gases that make up the atmosphere. In the twentieth century, most scientists did not

take global warming seriously and neglected its impacts. But since the dawn of the twenty-first century, this issue is being increasingly taken as the most gruesome challenges our climate is faced with.

Recent IPCC Report

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently released its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which underlines shocking results of climate change patterns. In this report, the IPCC has warned that climate will continue to warm the Earth and, it will result in catastrophic consequences. The report further depicts that the temperature of the Earth is rapidly rising due to anthropogenic activities. It has drawn attention to extreme weather changes, such as hazardous winds, cloud bursts, floods, wildfires, tropical cyclones, sea-level rise and other manifestations. AR6, which is no less than a red signal, is pertinent especially for the big economies like the United States and China, to reduce their GHG emissions to save the Earth from devastating impacts of global warming.

Recent Wildfires

Recent wildfires across continents further bear testimony to the fact that global warming is an apocalypse, leading human life and ecological biodiversity to devastation. Italy, Greece, Spain, Australia, Algeria and Turkey have seen raging wildfires during the past few weeks. Since forests,

according to an assessment by World Resources Institute (WRI), absorb 7.6 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide globally, one can imagine how colossal a loss wildfires cause to the environment.

Turkey

Turkey is extremely vulnerable to wildfire due to dry and hot air combined with low humidity. The recent wildfires in Turkey have been labelled as 'the worst in its history' by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. According to the European Forest Fire Information System, "About 175,000 hectares have been burned so far this year." The fires have caused a massive devastation and rendered people homeless. The very climatic situation calls for robust policies to reduce GHG emissions.

Greece

Wildfires in Greece began in early August 2021 and have wreaked havoc there. The widespread fires have burned a whopping number of homes. Many villages and towns have been evacuated, leading the residents homeless and helpless. The wildfires are said to be the consequence of extreme heatwave in Greece with the highest temperature recorded 47.1°C (116.8°F). The wildfires have engulfed Attica, Olympia, Messenia, and the most grossly affected northern Euboea. Estimates suggest that 115,000 hectares of forest and arable land has been burnt so far with over 50,000 hectares burnt in northern Euboea alone.

Algeria

The once-verdant mountains of the Algerian region of Tizi Ouzou, peppered with olive groves and coniferous trees, were ravaged by more than 100 forest fires over the month of August 2021. People lost their homes and

Temperatures are rising

Average annual temperatures in the Western US have increased 1.9° since 1970.



Snow melts sooner

Winter snowpack melts up to 4 weeks earlier than in previous decades.



Forests are drier, longer

Conditions are primed for wildfires to ignite and spread.



livestock. Families who found themselves on the street with little or no possessions had to move into hotels, hostels and schools repurposed to provide emergency accommodation. The unprecedented death

toll – significantly higher than the ones recorded in other countries in the region experiencing similar fires – led President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to decree three days of national mourning for the victims. The president also announced that his government will compensate those affected. The widespread conviction in the country that arsonists were behind the fires also led to the sidelining of a factor that undoubtedly played a leading role in bringing about the fires: climate change. Indeed, climate change is intensifying droughts and creating the perfect conditions for wildfires to spread and cause unprecedented environmental, material and human damage across the region. Earlier this month, the EU's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service said the Mediterranean has become a "wildfire hotspot" due to climate change, warning that many more such fires may be experienced in the future. The recent devastating wildfires in Greece and Turkey further confirmed that the increased impact of wildfires in Algeria is not only a result of domestic problems but part of a global environmental crisis.

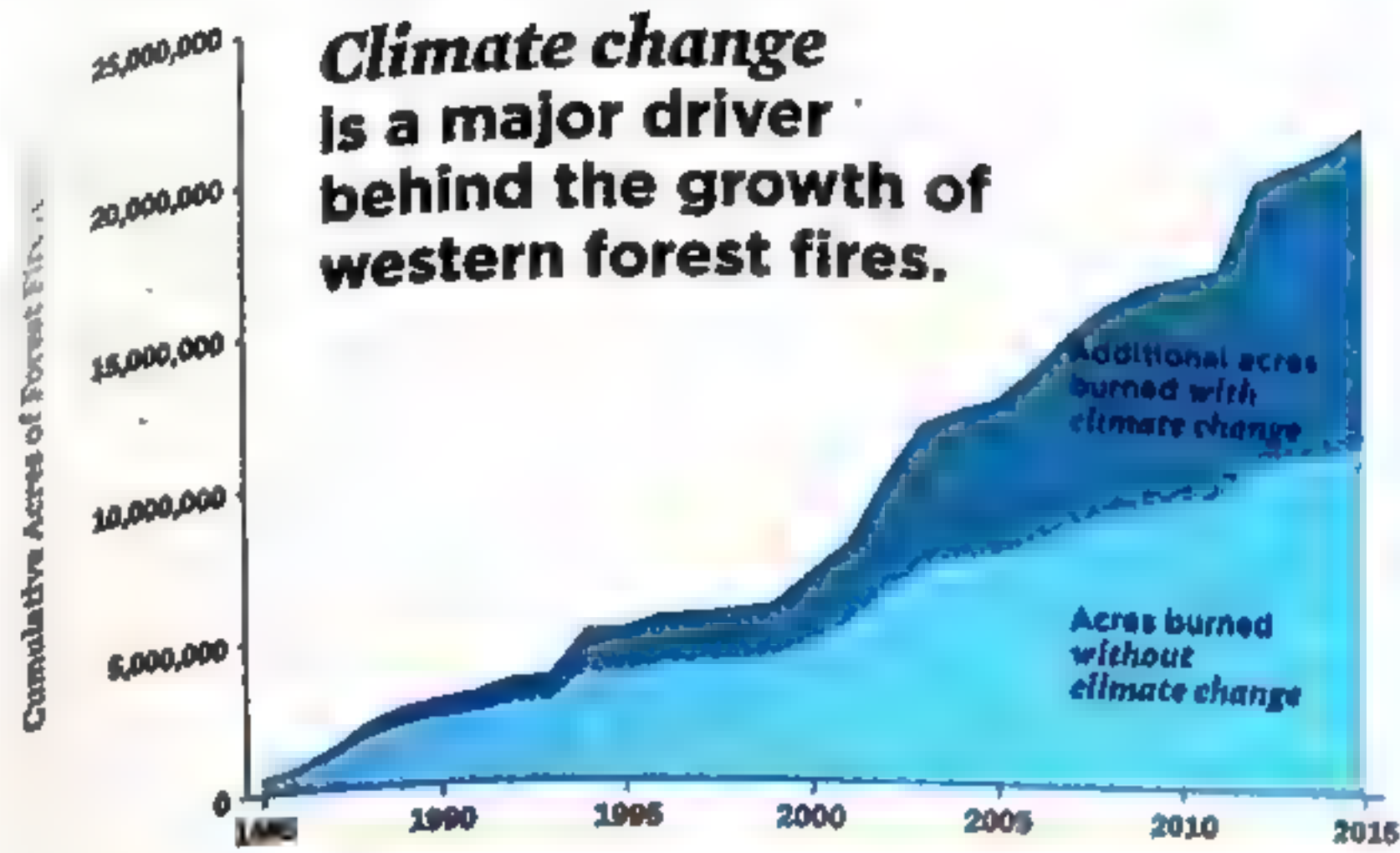
Italy

Wildfires have hit Aspromonte mountain range in Calabria, southern Italy, where most farmers live. The people in the area faced the worst-ever heat-waves due to forest fires rage for the 10th day in a row. BBC reported, "The Italian island of Sicily may have registered the hottest temperature ever recorded in Europe – 48.8°C (119.8°F)". In the hottest temperature, five people were dead: four in Calabria and one in Sicily. In a nutshell, Italy has experienced the most lethal scenario during the worst wildfires.

California

California is presently facing a colossal situation of wildfire, which is one of the second largest wildfires in its history. According to the California Office of Emergency Services more than 10,000 people have evacuated across





Tehama, Siskiyou, Trinity, Lassen and Plumas counties due to worsening circumstances of wildfires. Last year, the country faced the worst wildfire with a record-setting year. Amid the wildfire last year, a perfect prediction was made by Dr Susan Prichard, from the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington, "We now have the conflagrations in California that we feared, following the record-setting heatwaves. Given that California wildfires have burned all the way into November in recent years, I'm afraid that we might be set up for another record-breaking fire season." Undeniably, owing to anthropogenic activities of using maximum greenhouse gases, her prediction proved this year with another record-setting wildfire.

Adaptation and Mitigation

Global warming has widespread repercussions on the planet with excessive heat-waves, wildfires, floods and droughts. It has dismantled ecological biodiversity, caused loss of life and property, affected agro-forestry and raised sea level, which result into catastrophic consequences. Therefore, it is high time the global organizations coordinated with world governments drafted robust and concrete policies to counter the tantalizing matter. Implementation of treaties and abiding set-rules in those conventions are prerequisite tools to halt such global warming menaces. As the IPCC report rightly depicts, the emerging issues of climate change can still be mended by reducing anthropogenic activities, such as excessive use of fossil fuels. Adaptation and mitigation are two most important factors, which can contribute existential impact on minimizing heat-waves and global warming patterns. Mitigation through decreasing the use of greenhouse gas emissions, adopting renewable energy sources and taking keen interest in reforestation and afforestation are some key components of countering global warming.

Analysis

No doubt, the countries across the northern hemisphere are experiencing the worst wildfires ever recorded in history. Most of the environmental scientists claim that such catastrophes are triggered due to human activities, including the consumption of a large amount of



greenhouse gases, which contribute in warming the planet and, thereby, result into heat-waves. There is no denying the fact that the world is experiencing the devastating effects of global warming with maximum drawbacks in each passing day. Controlling the menace of climate change and delaying the temperature of the Earth up to 1.5°C are need of the hour to make our planet safe and sound from the devouring episodes. Besides, there is a need of utilizing environment-friendly and ecological-sound energy so that the trapping of greenhouse gas emissions get minimized and halted. There is still an opportunity to counter the implications of global warming, if the world recognizes the issue seriously and takes prudent measures to mitigate it. Temperatures will continue to rise and droughts will skyrocket, which will inevitably trigger more fires and destruction. The problem is currently knocking the doors of developing as well as developed states to wake them up for securing the earth from further deterioration. Prudent and herculean efforts are needed to overcome the menace.

Conclusion

The warming in the average temperature of the earth leads the global dynamics of nature into gruesome apocalypses. Climate change, a phenomenon of increasing heat-waves, has almost affected all the segments of socioeconomic, ecological and human lifecycle of the world. It has wreaked havoc in the recent long-lasting and fatal wildfires across the globe. However, the IPCC report underlines one of the thought-provoking conclusions that humans are unequivocally responsible for global warming, which has directly led to the greatest global warming catastrophic events, such as abovementioned countries caught under massive wildfires. According to Prof. Ed Hawkins, from the University of Reading, UK, and one of the report's authors, the scientists cannot be any clearer on this point. "It is a statement of fact, we cannot be any more certain; it is unequivocal and indisputable that humans are warming the planet." ■

The writer has done his Master's in International Relations from University of Karachi.



August 25, Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the country's first 'smart forest' in Rakh Jhok Forest in Sheikhupura. A part of the Ravi Riverfront Urban Development project - a modern city being developed on an area of 46 km along the Ravi River - the forest covers 24,000 kanals of land. It will be equipped with smart sensors and surveillance systems. Chinese tech giant Huawei will be the smart partner in the project. That is why this forest is being called 'smart'. Chinese tech giant Huawei and Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect. Under the agreement, Huawei will plant 10 million plants and will be responsible for monitoring them through the use of modern technology. Moreover, botanical gardens, bird sanctuaries, riverside parks, walking tracks and gardens will be set up in the smart forest.

Project Details

The Smart Forest project is divided into four zones, including the restoration and conservation of existing forests. The other three zones will include urban forests and orchards. According to the details of the project, as much as 10 million plants will be planted in the forest and these will be monitored with the help of sensors. According to SAPM on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, the forest would be monitored through technology, and cameras and sensors would be installed to monitor growth of plants and any other activity in the forest. The sensors will instantly identify whenever a tree is being cut.

This is made possible by IoTs, the Internet of Things. It is basically a network of 'devices' that can send data or information to each other through a network without the help of humans or computers. In the case of agriculture or tree planting, these 'devices' are sensors installed in or around plants that are connected to the Internet. These sensors transmit the information they receive over the

Internet to a device that the monitor can see. This device is his mobile phone.

A few sensors are installed above and below ground level in a field or plant environment. Underground sensors collect information on the moisture content, i.e. the level of water available to plants, or the amount of minerals in the soil.

Benefits for Pakistan

According to experts, Pakistan is one of the countries that are facing the negative effects of climate change and may face problems such as water shortage and food shortage in the coming days. In such a scenario, experts advise the use of technology to innovate in agriculture and tree planting. But how can technology or smart agriculture help Pakistan?

The use of technology in a smart forest can save as many trees as possible from dying. In addition to IoTs, drone cameras are also used to monitor such forests to ensure

that no illegal logging takes place. In this way, the forest can spread over a larger area and the larger the forest, the more it will be able to absorb the carbon or carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere. Experts believe that to avoid the negative effects of climate change, it is necessary to keep the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to minimum.

Trees also provide oxygen for human need. Moreover, compared to conventional field

forest, smart forest plants only get water only when they need it. Thus a large amount of water that is lost in the traditional method of irrigation is saved. The water saved in this way can save the groundwater supply from depletion and will be available for food cultivation.

In the same vein, they are given fertilizer as per their need. This not only saves the cost of the farmer but also increases the yield of the plant due to its good health.

So, in fine, with the use of smart methods, Pakistan can deal with problems such as food shortages. ■



Pakistan's First

'Smart Forest'

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Indo-Pacific, a term once used mostly by marine biologists and biogeographers, has become common parlance among diplomats, bureaucrats and politicians, finding particularly free and full expression at events such

as G7 meetings. In Cornwall in June 2021, talk of the Indo-Pacific was there at every turn. "A free and open Indo-Pacific is essential to each of our futures," said US President Joe Biden. Moreover, Australian Foreign Minister, Marise Payne, said, "Nowhere is change happening more rapidly than in our region, in the Indo-Pacific." Later, in August, as Biden defended the US exit from Afghanistan, Vice President Kamala Harris was in South-east Asia affirming her nation's "proud part" in the Indo-Pacific – "some of our closest allies and strongest partners are here". So, what does Indo-Pacific mean? Where does it begin and end? And who are main players in this region today? This piece explains that:

Introduction

The "Indo-Pacific" or "Indo-Pacific region" has enjoyed growing popularity for over ten years as a geographical and strategic construct in the foreign and security policy discourse in Japan, the United States, Australia, India, France and some Southeast Asian states. Many see "Indo-

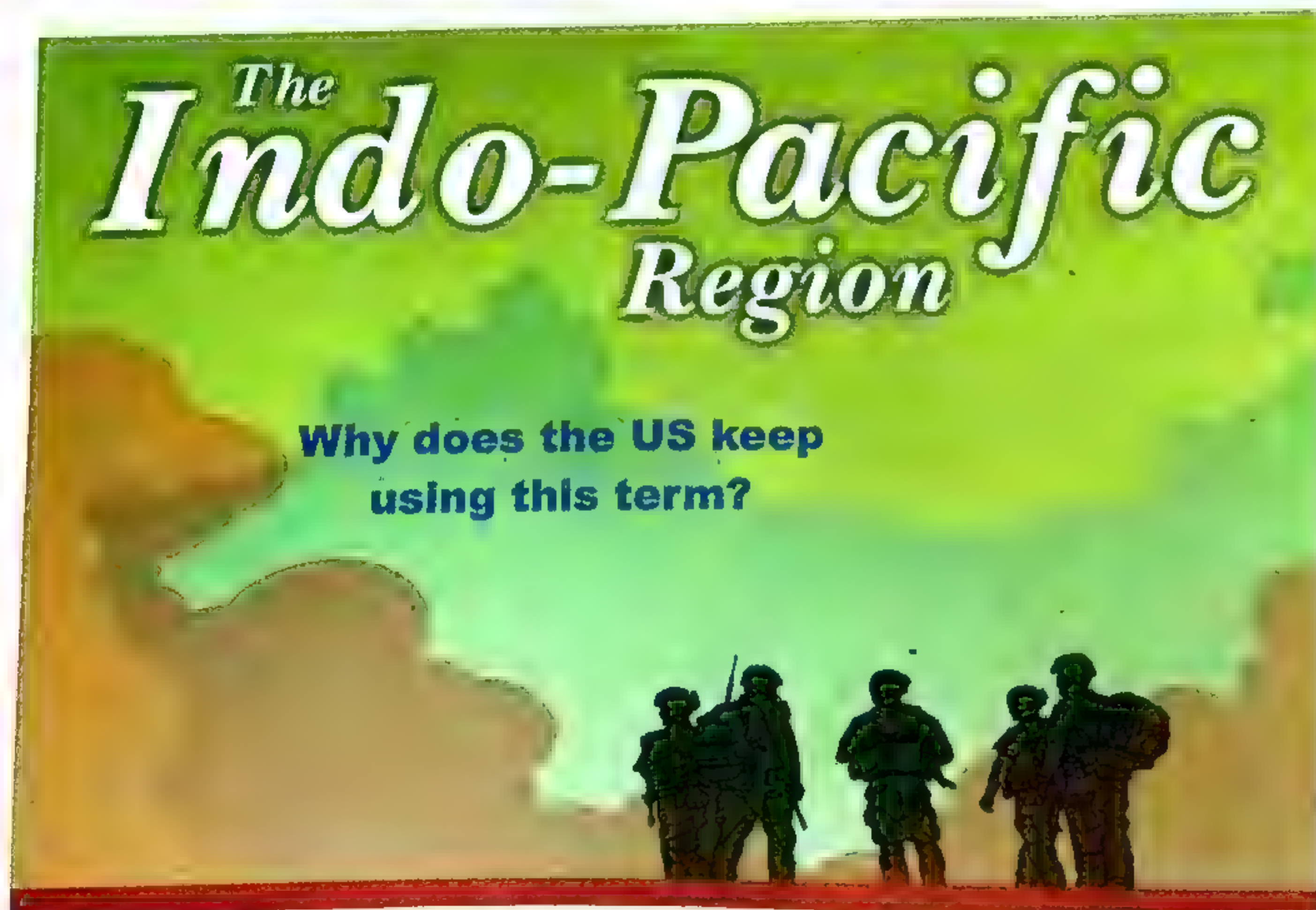
During a major foreign policy speech in Singapore on August 24, US Vice-President Kamala Harris delivered a sharp rebuke to China for its incursions in the South China Sea, warning that Beijing's actions constitute "coercion and intimidation". Affirming that the US would support its allies in the region against Beijing's advances, Harris laid out the Biden administration's vision for the region, saying that the US would stand united with our allies and our partners in Southeast Asia in defence of a free and open Indo-Pacific. The repeated reference to "Indo-Pacific" – a policy frame promoted by the Trump administration – reflects the Biden administration's continued outreach to the region and the way US foreign policy has been recast by China's expanding influence.

Zafrullah Saroy
Pacific" as a new geographical and strategic frame of reference that has at least partially come to replace the previously dominant "Asia-Pacific" construct. The term has found its way into official documents such as national security strategies or defence white papers as well as into the rhetoric of the elites. It is also increasingly being discussed in think tanks and academic institutions. As a result, it has become a kind of "geopolitical nomenclature". The Indo-Pacific is currently the arena in which growing rivalry between the United States and China in Asia is being played out. Accordingly, it has gained in importance geopolitically and geo-

economically over the last two decades. Moreover, many Asian actors see it not only as a "purely" geographical construct but also as an alternative to the Chinese "Belt and Road" Initiative (BRI). Geopolitical and geo-economic aspects are thus closely intertwined in the Indo-Pacific.

What is Indo-Pacific region?

The Indo-Pacific region is a geopolitical area that spans two regions of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Stretching from the west coast of the United States to the west coast of India, the Indo-Pacific is a 24-nation regional framework comprising the tropical waters of the Indian



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Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean, and the seas connecting the two in the general area of Indonesia.

Why is it important?

"I believe that when the history of the 21st century is written, much of it will be centred right here in the Indo-Pacific ... Our intention is to strengthen our partnerships and reinforce our shared vision ... In doing so, there should be no doubt - we have enduring interests in this region, and we have enduring commitments as well." — US Vice-President Kamala Harris

The interconnectedness and the interdependence of the two oceans is a product of growing forces of globalization, trade and changing equations between various actors which has broken down older boundaries and opened up new avenues. Growing mobility across the oceans has helped formulate an integrated approach. Given that it contains the world's most crucial sea routes, the world's most populous nations fuelling high energy demands on its rims and a stretch encapsulating finest global commons, the Indo-Pacific is adjudged to be the centre of the globe in terms of politics and economics.

When was the term 'Indo-Pacific' introduced?

For decades, the vast expanse of territory stretching from Australia to India was referred to in Washington as "Asia-Pacific," although "Indo-Pacific" was commonly used among foreign policy experts, mainly in India, Indonesia and Australia.

Even before Donald Trump's five-nation Asian tour in November 2017, White House officials and even Trump himself had started using the term "Indo-Pacific".

H.R. McMaster, who served as Trump's national security adviser for 14 months, used the term repeatedly when talking to reporters about Trump's visit to the Philippines, Vietnam, China, South Korea and Japan.

The changed language was initially interpreted as an attempt by Trump to distance himself from the policies of Barack Obama, his predecessor, who spent much of his second term seeking to pivot US foreign policy from the Middle East to the emerging economies of Asia.

The fact it has been echoed by the Biden administration suggests it is the new normal in US foreign policy.

What does the term reveal about US foreign policy?

The continued references to the Indo-Pacific suggest the US has become increasingly focused on China - further reflected in its efforts to revive the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) that also includes Japan, Australia and India. This alliance seeks to counter China by bringing together US allies in support of the "rules-based international order" and to defend international norms

allegedly breached by Beijing.

One reason the US uses "Indo" in the term Indo-Pacific is because it highlights India's importance in dealing with China. For the US, the Indo-Pacific is valuable because it's broad - it includes everything from India to New Zealand - and the US intends to challenge China in all of these places. The Biden administration had stuck with the term not out of affinity with Trump, but because "Indo-Pacific" more effectively conveyed the president's plan to challenge China not only in East Asia, but also beyond.

What's the US strategy?

Washington is determined to promote its interests and those of its partners and allies in the region. It will work multilaterally through institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The United States recognises Indo-Pacific has become a vital strategic and economic region. Accordingly, it seeks to preserve stability and rule of law, while also countering China's influence. By supporting its partners and allies, the

US seeks to prevent Chinese regional dominance and retain its positive partnerships.

However, despite its deep regional expertise and the region's high expectations, the US has failed to articulate a comprehensive regional strategy or treat the Indo-Pacific as its decisive priority as per a report "Correcting the Course: How the Biden Administration Should Compete for Influence in the Indo-

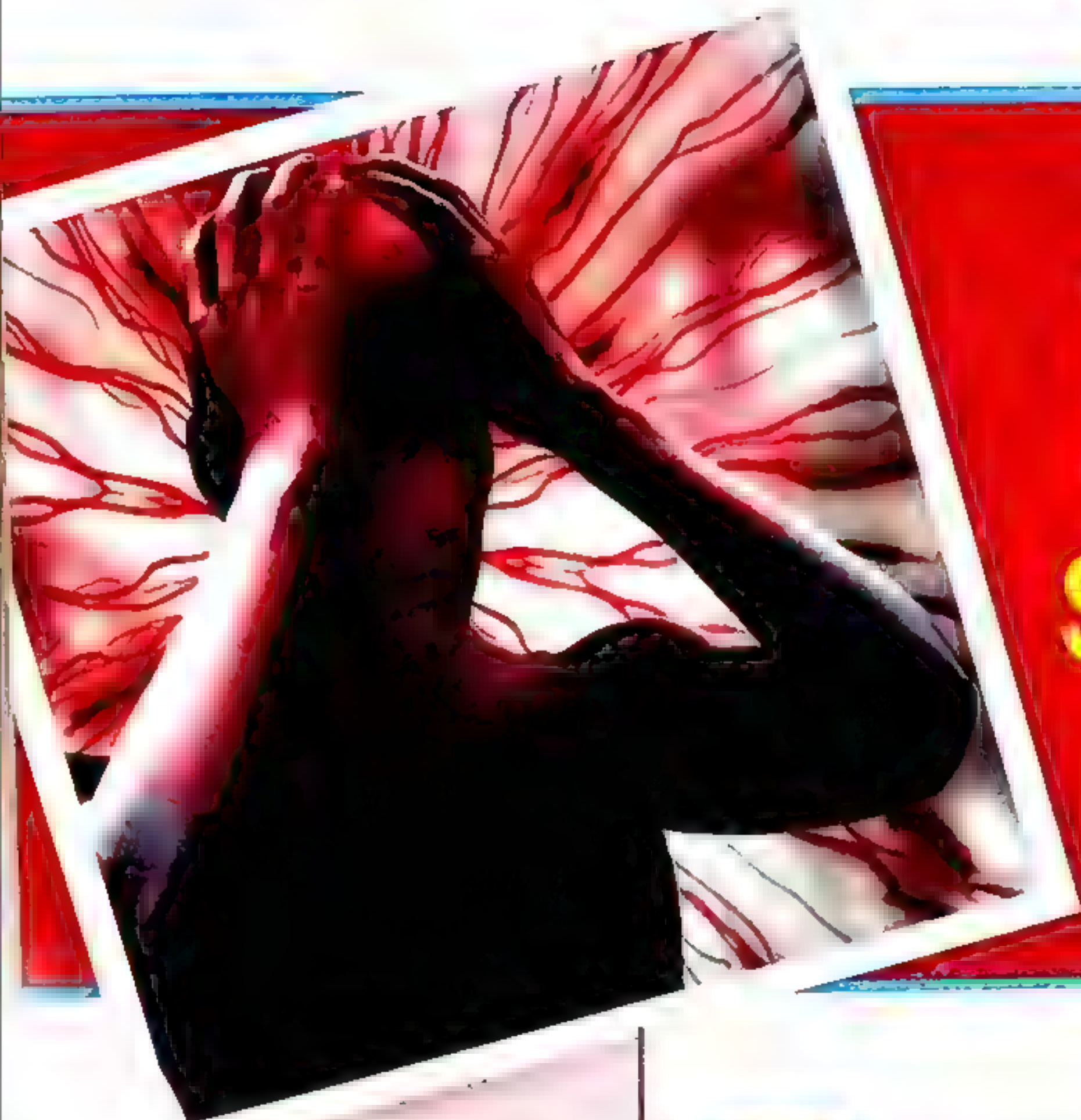


Pacific" by the University of Sydney's US Studies Centre

The primary focus of the Indo-Pacific strategy is on preventing conflict - particularly involving China in the South China Sea - by strengthening the Quad and challenging Beijing, mostly with statements and diplomacy. The secondary focus is competing with China for favour in the Indo-Pacific to advance American standards and values. While US leaders are warmly received in India, Vietnam and Singapore, Washington faces real challenges with other powers in the region such as Indonesia and Thailand, which tend to balance the US and China and will, therefore, avoid antagonising Beijing.

The major elephant in the room is that China's development financing for the region vastly outpaces that of the United States - and that most Indo-Pacific countries value economic cooperation more than security ties. In the Indo-Pacific, money talks, and for years nobody has been as loud as China. For now, Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy remains security-focused, with economics trailing behind. Under China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, infrastructure projects in Asia continued to receive the largest share of financing which exceeded US\$4 trillion in the first quarter of 2020. ■

The writer is a Lahore-based legal consultant.



HAVANA SYNDROME

The mysterious illness that is ringing in Uncle Sam's ears



On August 24, American Vice President Kamala Harris's visit to Vietnam was delayed for a few hours. It was not air traffic or Harris's illness that caused the delay, but a mysterious syndrome that has affected hundreds across countries till now. While US officials referred to the mysterious symptoms as a "possible anomalous health incident," it is commonly known as "Havana syndrome".



Havana syndrome is the name for a series of mysterious health incidents first reported by American diplomats and other government employees in the Cuban capital in late 2016. It

manages to remain a mystery for the world even after five years. Sufferers have reported hearing loud noise, loss of balance, intense head pressure and vision problems. Many continued to experience these or other health problems for some time. Similar unexplained incidents have since been reported by US officials and family members in other countries, including Germany, Austria, Russia and China. Several spies and diplomats have been severely affected by the syndrome, with some complaining that they even retired from their jobs due to this "illness".

Why the name

The syndrome was named after the Cuban capital post the expulsion of 15 Cuban diplomats from Washington and pulling out of US diplomats from Havana by the Trump administration.

The US government accused Cuba of perpetrating the attacks and reduced the staff to the embassy to a minimum. In turn, the Cuban Foreign Minister denied any involvement and accused the US of lying about the incident.

First reported case

In 2016, several US diplomats and other employees stationed in Cuba's capital,

Muhammad Sheeraz

Havana, reported falling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes. Since then, more than 200 US officials have fallen sick with Havana syndrome, according to CIA Director William Burns. In addition to the above, several Canadian diplomats have reported similar symptoms in Havana, the capital of Cuba. It is worth mentioning that Cuba has denied any knowledge of the illness.

Symptoms

According to MedicineNet, the symptoms include:

- ✓ Confusion
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Difficulty in concentrating
- ✓ Memory problems
- ✓ Light sensitivity
- ✓ Migraines
- ✓ Nosebleeds
- ✓ Hearing loud, piercing noises during the night
- ✓ Recurrent vertigo (a feeling that you are about to fall)

Persistence of symptoms

Till now, the symptoms went away quickly for some, but for others, they have lingered on for a long time.

Causes

The cause for Havana syndrome has not been ascertained yet. While investigations are on, the US agencies are still unsure of what causes Havana syndrome. They believed the syndrome was being "intentionally" caused. The CIA and the Pentagon

don't believe this is a naturally occurring illness – to them, it's a deliberate act of aggression. A study commissioned by the State Department said the most likely source is a pulse of radiofrequency energy "directed" at US targets.

At first, Havana syndrome was said to be a "psychogenic illness". Eventually, a variety of theories started floating to explain the incidents.

From the possibility of targeted microwaves or sonic attack to perhaps an espionage or hacking effort — every possible reason for the cause of this mysterious syndrome has been weighed in, but to no avail.

What research tells?

Initially, American officials pointed the finger at sonic weapons, i.e. devices that use sound to disturb and disorient. But this theory was scrapped because sound waves at frequencies outside the range of human hearing cannot cause concussion-like symptoms. Next they considered microwaves.

Later, in December 2020, a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) was published by researchers who analysed the plausible cause of Havana syndrome. The study revealed directed and pulsed radio frequency energy as the most "plausible" cause for this syndrome.

"An Assessment of Illness in US Government Employees and Their Families at Overseas Embassies" says that among the mechanisms the committee considered, directed, pulsed radio frequency energy appears to be the most plausible mechanism in explaining these cases, especially in individuals with the distinct early symptoms.

"The committee found these cases quite concerning, in part because of the plausible role of directed, pulsed radio frequency energy as a mechanism, but also because of the significant suffering and debility that has occurred in some of these individuals," committee chair David Relman, Thomas C. and Joan M. were quoted as saying.

Besides this, some researchers also considered microwave weapons to be "a main suspect" for the syndrome.

James Giordano, a professor at Georgetown University who has also worked with the State Department on investigating the Havana cases, says, "There is evidence of brain injuries in several people, suggesting they may have been affected by radio waves." He identified two possible sources. One is

a device used to directly target people. Another is a tool that used energy waves for intelligence gathering.

Some scientists, however, disagreed with the findings.

Robert Baloh is a medical doctor from the University of California, Los Angeles. He and Robert Bartholomew of Botany College in New Zealand wrote in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, "the most likely explanation for the recent outbreak of mysterious symptoms in Cuba and elsewhere is mass psychogenic illness." A mass psychogenic illness is when people learn of sickness among others in their group and begin to feel sick themselves.

Some propose a third explanation: this can occur when people in a group perceive the same symptoms, despite no external cause. Its supporters believe that there is no

underlying disease, even though the symptoms are real and distressing. The extreme stress of living under round-the-clock surveillance in Cuba, which had only just restored diplomatic ties with America in 2015, may have contributed.

Although nearly one-third of individuals reported hearing loss from the attacks in Cuba, a standard test found that loss actually occurred in just two out of 21 people—both of whom suffered before the events in Cuba. Brain scans showed changes to white matter (the tissue that makes up around 60% of the brain) in three out of 21 patients, which is not unusual for a group of normal test subjects of that sample size.

What are microwave weapons? These are believed to be a type of direct energy weapons aiming highly focussed energy in the form of sonar, laser or microwaves at targets. People exposed

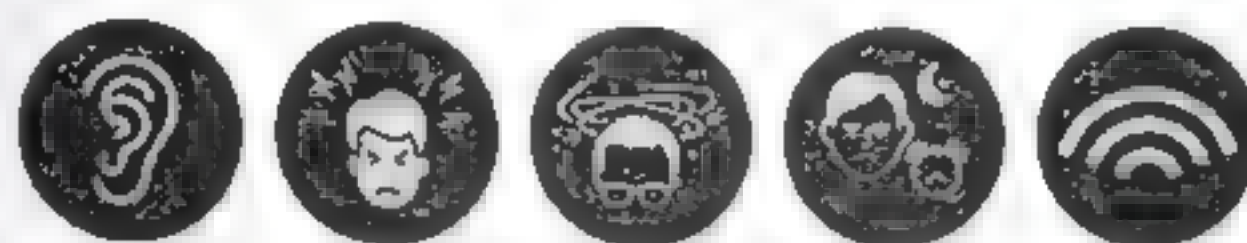
to these have reported a clicking or buzzing sound as if seeming to be coming from within their heads. Microwave weapons have both acute and long-term effects and leave no signs of physical damage.

These weapons have been developed by a number of countries to target both humans and electronic systems. For instance, China displayed its microwave weapon, Poly WB-1, at an air show in 2014. A prototype microwave-style weapon, "Active Denial System," developed by the US is the first non-lethal, directed-energy, counter-personnel system with a range greater than currently fielded non-lethal weapons. ■

The writer is a member of staff.

SYMPTOMS OF HAVANA SYNDROME

A wide array of varying symptoms have been reported by the afflicted



- **Hearing harsh,** mechanical sounds followed by hearing loss
- Nausea, **severe headaches,** ear pain, fatigue, insomnia and sluggishness
- Experiencing **uncomfortable pressure,** like the sensation of driving fast in a car with one window partially down
- **Vertigo,** vision problems, and difficulty concentrating
- Pain only in **specific locations** — feeling symptoms in certain hotel rooms or apartments but nowhere else
- Sensation of **being hit** with a beam of energy
- Long-term issues, including severe headaches, **insomnia,** and hearing problems in certain instances
- MRIs have **revealed signs of brain damage** without any impact to patients' skulls

Recent proposed definition of ecocide by Stop Ecocide Foundation to be included in Rome Statue as a fifth core crime, along with the crime of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression, has aroused both academic and policy debates all over the world. While the very concept of "ecocide" has become popular lately, the term was first coined in 1970 by Arthur Galston, an American biologist, who used the term to raise concerns on the excessive use of the defoliant Agent Orange which was used to inflict harms upon environment during the Vietnam War.

Arifur Rahman

The word 'ecocide' originates from the Greek word *oikos* which means home, and the Latin word *caedere* which means an act of killing or demolishing. Hence, the term 'ecocide' simply stands for 'killing our home'. Independent Expert Panel's recent definition of ecocide stands as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts" in the proposed Article 8(c). Here the word "wanton" has been explained as "reckless disregard" in order to consider an act as ecocide. Such reckless act that would eventually cause "serious adverse changes, disruption or harm to any element of the environment" and such harm would have to "extend beyond a limited geographic area, cross state boundaries, or [be] suffered by an entire ecosystem or species or a large number of human beings." The proposed article also states that damage caused from the crime of ecocide needs to be "irreversible or unable to be fixed within a reasonable period of time." And for the purpose of the application of the Article 8 ter, the word "environment" has been defined as an inclusive of "the earth, its biosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere, as well as outer space." Unlike genocide, the panel definition of ecocide has been provided without having the requirement of *mens rea* or specific intent and thereby divulging itself as a strict

UNDERSTANDING ECOCIDE



liability offence. The rationale behind the proposal of ecocide as a strict liability offence is that environmental harm usually happens to be an indirect result of productivity, and hence establishing direct intention is hardly possible when it comes to environmental harm. Here, it can be said that the term ecocide has been used to depict the seriousness of environmental harm and its devastating impact on our mother earth by establishing that environmental harm on a massive scale should no longer be subject to proving some elements. However, it should be noted that the crime of ecocide mainly focuses on massive destruction of environment and does not necessarily include the small ones.

Albeit the proposed definition of ecocide for criminalising the act of massive ecological destruction seems a viable solution to protect our ecosystem, also recognising the implementation of such proposal might face some



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difficulties and challenges. For instance, some argue that the requirement of knowledge (in wanton acts) in determining whether one's act will cause excessive damage to the environment in relation to the anticipated socio-economic developments is almost impossible to prove and will create evidentiary hurdles. Another challenge would be the ICC's burden with large number of cases unless there is a specific forum to deal with ecocide cases only. Also, the cases on the crime of ecocide would have to be brought against individuals representing the corporations or against the states where the activities of the corporation are based since the corporations would not be held liable directly under the Rome statute. And that will undoubtedly bring strong opposition to the inclusion of ecocide as an international crime given the strong economic interests involved within these corporations.

Apart from that, aligning ecocide with International Environmental Law (IEL) would be a stumbling block since criminal law focuses on the requirement of precision and foreseeability while environmental law requires "balancing and trade-offs with few hard and clear

Should 'ecocide' be a crime?

Environmental campaigners assert that no one should go unpunished for destroying the natural world. They argue that the crime should come under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which can currently prosecute just four crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. While the ICC can already prosecute for environmental crimes, this is only possible within the context of these four crimes – it does not place any legal restrictions on legal harms that occur during times of peace. While individual countries have their own rules and regulations to prevent such harms, ecocide campaigners argue that mass environmental destruction will continue until a global law is in place. This wouldn't be the fluffy and arguably toothless rulemaking that often emerges from international processes – such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, where countries set their own emission-reductions targets. By adding a fifth crime of ecocide to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the perpetrators of environmental destruction would suddenly be liable to arrest, prosecution and imprisonment.

prohibitions". Last but not least, some commentators identify that since the proposed definition takes an attempt to balance the socio-economic interests with environmental harm, the term 'ecocide' itself is not eco-centric and therefore "not ecocide" at all. However, some may find it surprising, the IEL itself is not purely eco-centric rather is an approach that motivates humans to adopt environmental protections by enabling environmental law progression.

Needless to say that, in spite of having some challenges, the proposed crime of ecocide suggests a plausible solution to protect our planet by making polluters criminally liable in case of massive destruction to the ecosystem. It brings seriousness to our understanding of nature, reminds us that the earth is our home, and we need to adopt viable measures to protect it. The crime of ecocide also conveys the gravity of environmental harm, the urgency to reduce massive destruction caused to the environment, and therefore urges that such an act of massive destruction to environment should no longer be considered as "second class crime". Finally, it once again reiterates that protecting our environment means protecting ourselves. Hence, it warrants serious commitment from the international community as a whole. ■



Tigray region

Tigray is one of the 12 federated units of Ethiopia (10 regional states and 2 cities). Since 1994, the African country has been ruled under a system called "ethnic federalism," where each of the largest peoples – Oromo, Amhara, Tigrayan and Somali – is assigned one of the main regional states. Tigrayans have long been a centre of power and influence, controlling the country's government for three decades.

In Tigray, 95% of the population belongs to the Tigrayan people. Since its creation, the Tigray Regional State has been ruled by the TPLF, a Tigrayan nationalist party.

The TPLF

The TPLF was founded in 1975 as a political-military movement opposing Ethiopian communist dictatorship of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam. The TPLF joined the Eritrean independence fighters in the war that they had been waging against the Ethiopian regime since 1961. First, the TPLF stated that its aim was achieving independence for Tigray; in 1978-79 the party somewhat watered down that demand, and pursued the

Ethiopia is facing a prolonged conflict between government forces and troops in its northern Tigray region. The unrest erupted in November 2020, just a year after Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, received the Nobel Peace Prize for resolving the 20-year border conflict with Eritrea. Ethiopia's federal government declared war on its northern region of Tigray, leading to fears of a protracted conflict in Africa's second-most populous country. Clashes are the culmination of a growing political dispute between the Ethiopian government, led by Abiy Ahmed, and the TPLF, which held power in Ethiopia for nearly three decades.

Khalid Kh

toppling of Mengistu to bring about a change of regime in Ethiopia as a result of which it achieved in 1991.

Having claimed victory in the war, the TPLF took power in Ethiopia. From 1991 to 2018, it led a coalition of Ethiopian parties (the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, EPRDF) that ruled the country uninterrupted. TPLF leader Meles Zenawi led the Ethiopian government from 1991 until his death in 2012. The TPLF's domination of the state apparatus and of important economic sectors caused resentment in other regions of the country, from where Tigrayan nationalists were accused of governing and exploiting the rest of Ethiopia. However, and despite the war against Eritrea, Meles remained in power, riding on economic growth experienced by Ethiopia under his rule, while at the same time suppressing political dissent.

The crisis

In 2018, following a series of popular protests, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn — political heir to Meles — resigned, being replaced by reformist Abiy Ahmed, despite opposition

The Conflict in Tigray

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from the TPLF, which was weakened at the time by internal disputes and some distancing from the other parties of the EPRDF coalition. Abiy belonged to one of these parties, the Oromo Democratic Party (ODP). Relations between the TPLF and the rest of the EPRDF soured, particularly after Abiy announced he would be reviewing the system of ethnic federalism and promoting Ethiopian national unity. Now, the TPLF feared losing its political, economic and military power — and accused Abiy of purging Tigrayans of government officers. The party also believed the autonomy of the Tigrayan Regional



State would be endangered, and suspected that Abiy wished to impose a new Oromo-based domination in the state apparatus in Addis Ababa.

In 1975, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) launched a protracted war against the Derg military government in Addis Ababa, which they eventually toppled in 1991.

The TPLF then dominated the ruling alliance composed of four ethno-regional parties, until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power in 2018.

In 2019, Abiy merged the EPRDF coalition into a single party, the Prosperity Party (PP).

The other parties in the coalition were: the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization, the Amhara National Democratic Movement, and the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement.

The TPLF decided not to join the new party, which it viewed as a tool for Ethiopia's return to centralist policies of the Haile Selassie and Mengistu eras, away from ethnic federalism that had prevailed over the past three decades.

What set off the recent conflict?

In early November 2020, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said

that Tigrayans had attacked a national military base. He responded by sending troops to the region, which is governed by the TPLF — a political party that once held major influence across the country. The war was the culmination of escalating tensions between the two sides, and the direst of several recent ethno-nationalist clashes in Africa's second-most populous country.

Abiy declared the offensive a success after just three weeks when government forces took over Mekele, and installed an interim administration loyal to Addis Ababa.

How are civilians affected?

The UN warns of a severe humanitarian crisis, with thousands killed, and over five million in need of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF reports that malnutrition could affect over 100,000 children in the next year. Non-governmental organizations accuse all sides of human rights violations and atrocities such as rape, looting and summary executions. USAID estimates that up to 900,000 people in Tigray face "man-made" famine conditions while phone, internet and banking services remain cut off.

The UN has complained of bureaucratic obstacles and other problems preventing aid convoys and workers from reaching affected areas.

What's the outlook?



The conflict is threatening to escalate: the Oromo Liberation Army, an armed group from southern Ethiopia, has announced they are working with the TPLF. Both groups want to fight the central government.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abiy has called on all Ethiopians to fight the TPLF, signalling the end to his call for a ceasefire. Additionally, his government suspended the operations of two major international aid groups, the Dutch section of Doctors Without Borders and the Norwegian Refugee Council, accusing them of spreading

"misinformation." The move is deterring others from speaking out.

Conclusion

Grim as that is, the underlying nature of the conflict is more alarming. War crimes, mass atrocities, and egregious violations of humanitarian laws have taken place. These are reminiscent of the Darfur genocide but facilitated by upgraded technologies such as drones and tanks.

The sad conclusion is that Ethiopia's Tigray war will not end until it becomes ripe for solving. Meanwhile, tragically, more pain must be endured. That is why it is so important to redouble humanitarian efforts: Not just to save lives and relieve suffering. But also to keep the light of humanity shining, pointing towards the path of peace, whenever the belligerents have the courage to walk it. 🕊



Eritrea's role in the Conflict

Eritrea, which was once part of Ethiopia, fought and won a brutal, decades-long war of independence that ended in 1991. The two countries went to war again in 1998 in a territorial conflict that ended inconclusively in 2000, claiming an estimated 100,000 lives.

However, shortly after taking office, Ethiopian premier, Abiy Ahmed, reached out to Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, and the two forged a historic peace accord aimed at putting the countries' mutual enmity in the past. Abiy won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for his efforts to resolve the long-standing conflict. Abiy appears to have won a staunch ally in Isaias. Eritrean forces are reportedly engaged in the Tigray fight, backing Ethiopia. The Associated Press reported that Eritrean soldiers were involved in a massacre of civilians in the town of Axum in the early days of the conflict. Amnesty International has also blamed Eritrea for the mass killing at Axum. Eritrean forces also reportedly carried out a similar attack on civilians at a church in the Tigrayan town of Dengelat.

Both governments have denied that Eritrean troops are even in Ethiopia. In an interview with state media, Isaias didn't comment on the presence of Eritrean forces in Tigray, but he appeared to hint at it. He expressed concern over the Tigray situation and said Eritrea was "trying our level best" to help Ethiopia "in accordance to our obligation," the BBC reported. Abiy, speaking to parliament in November last year, called the Eritrean people "our brothers," and friends "who stood by our side on a tough day."



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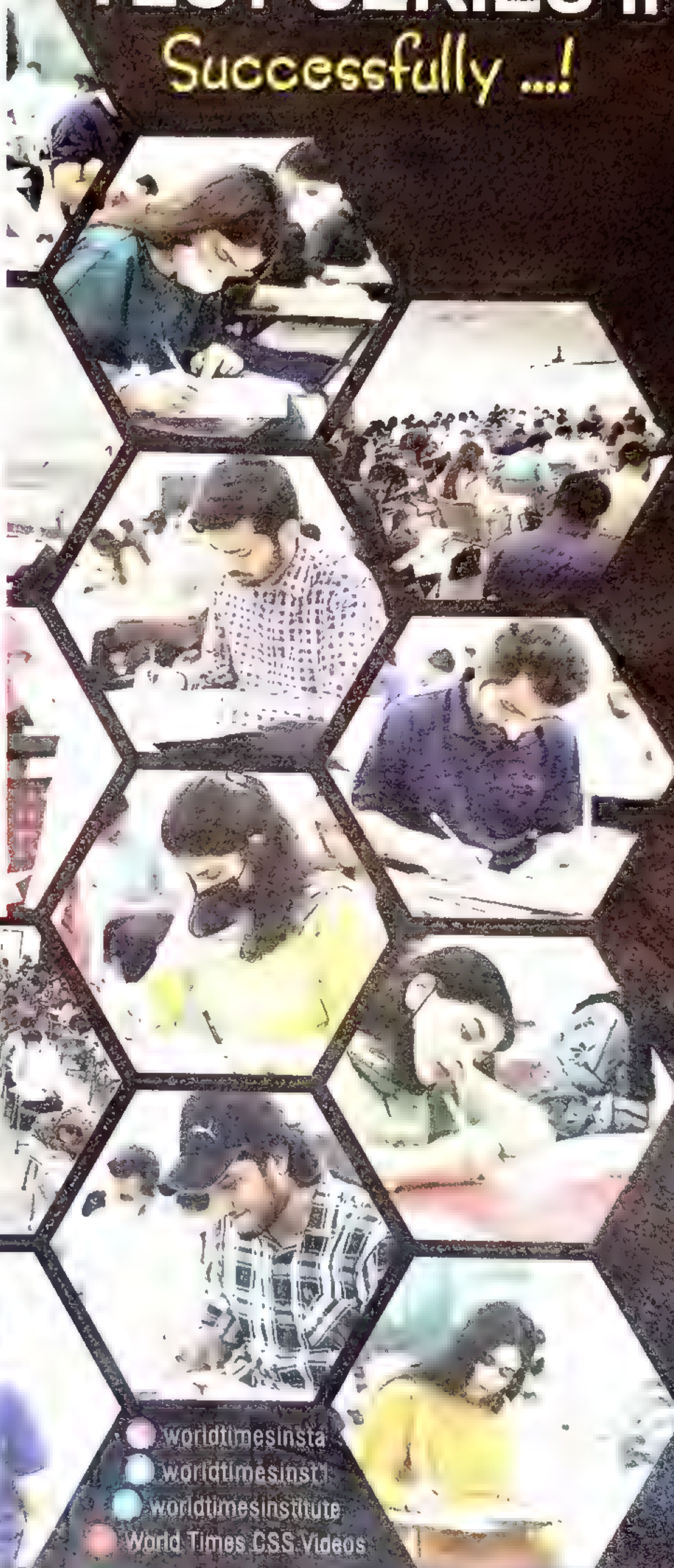
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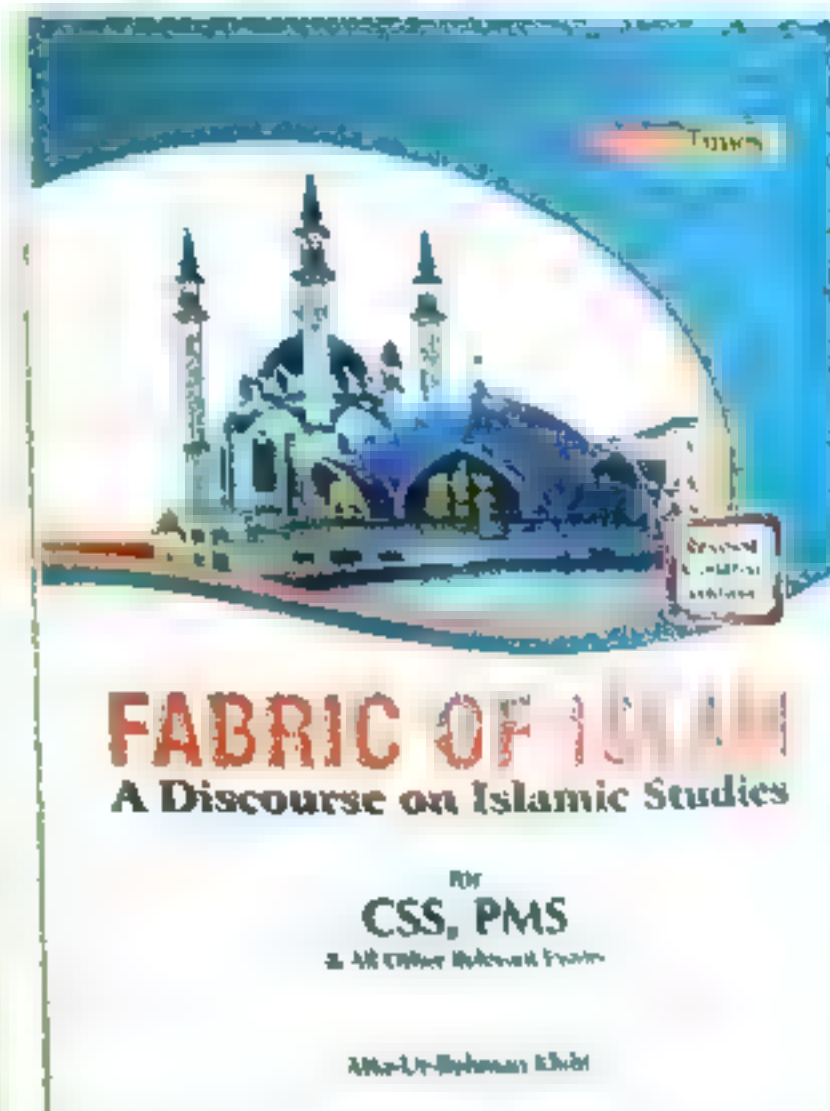
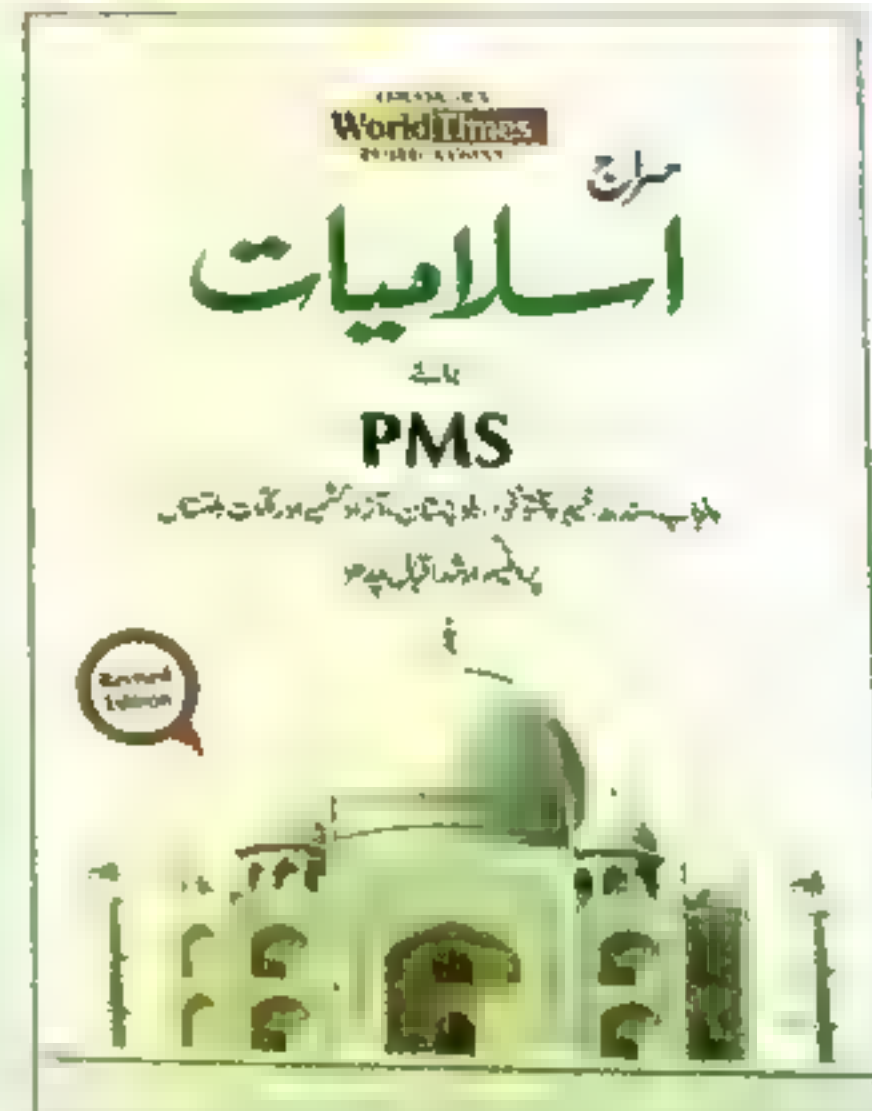
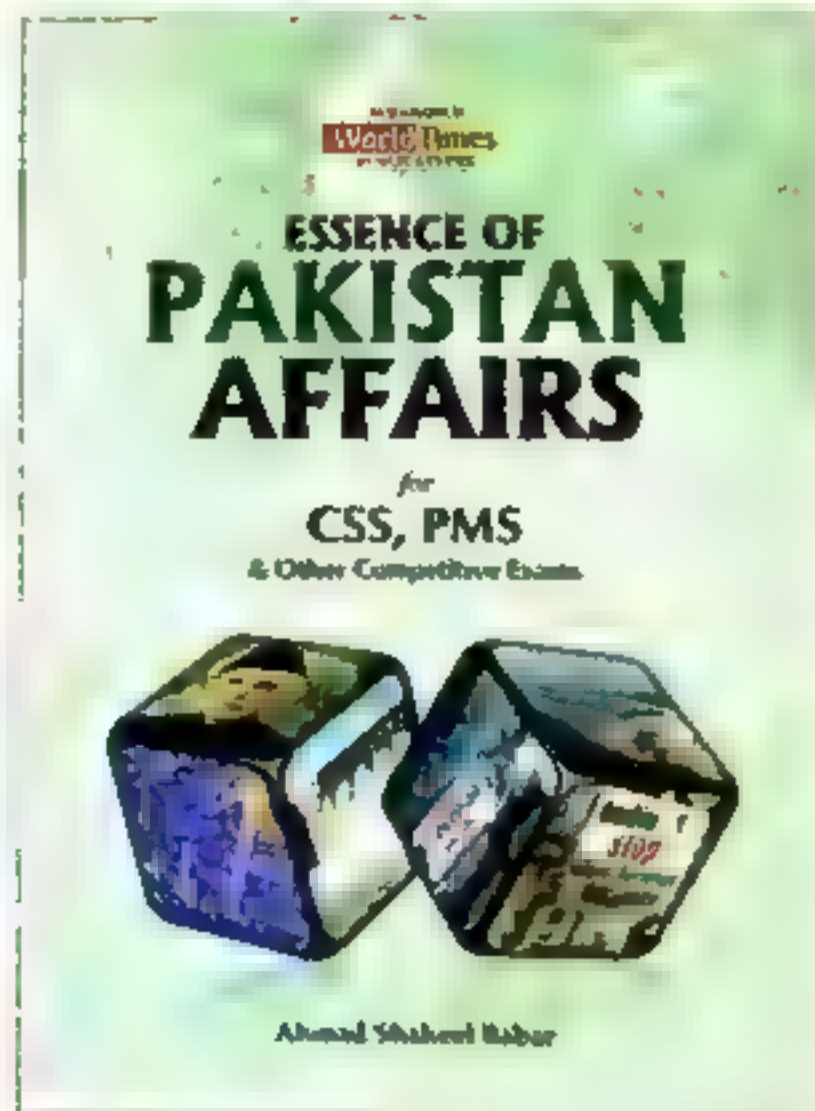
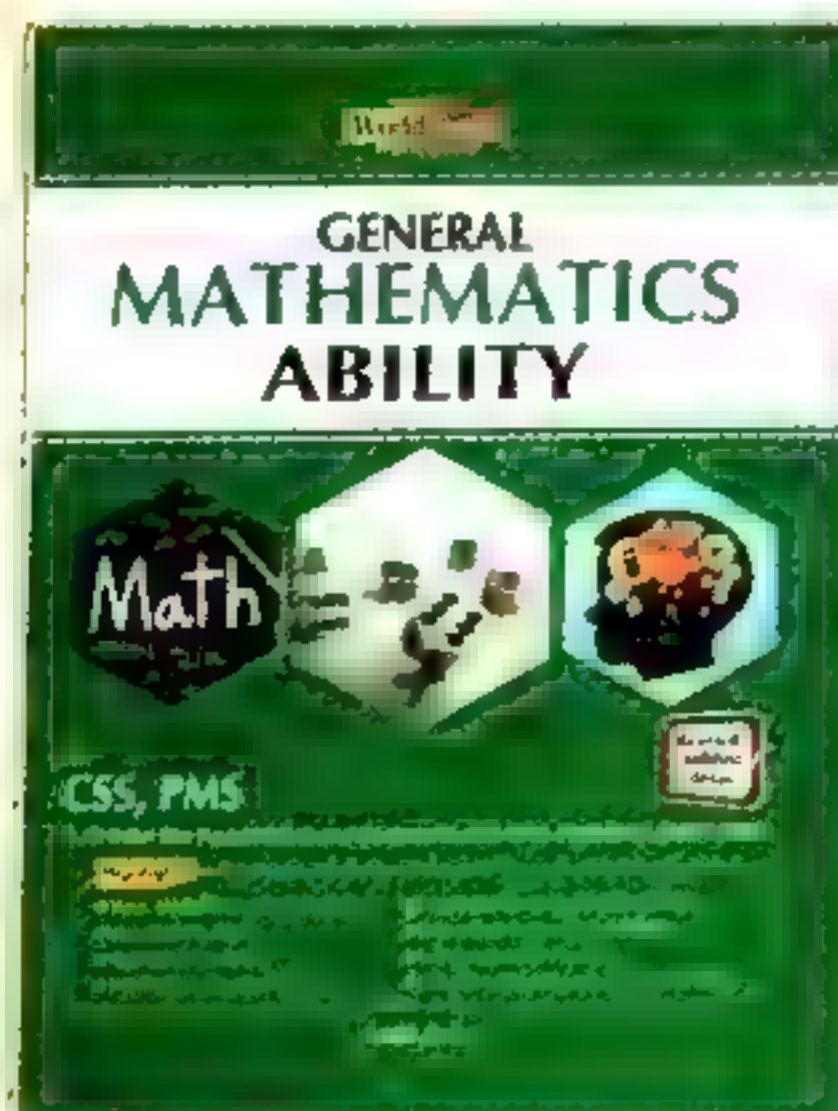
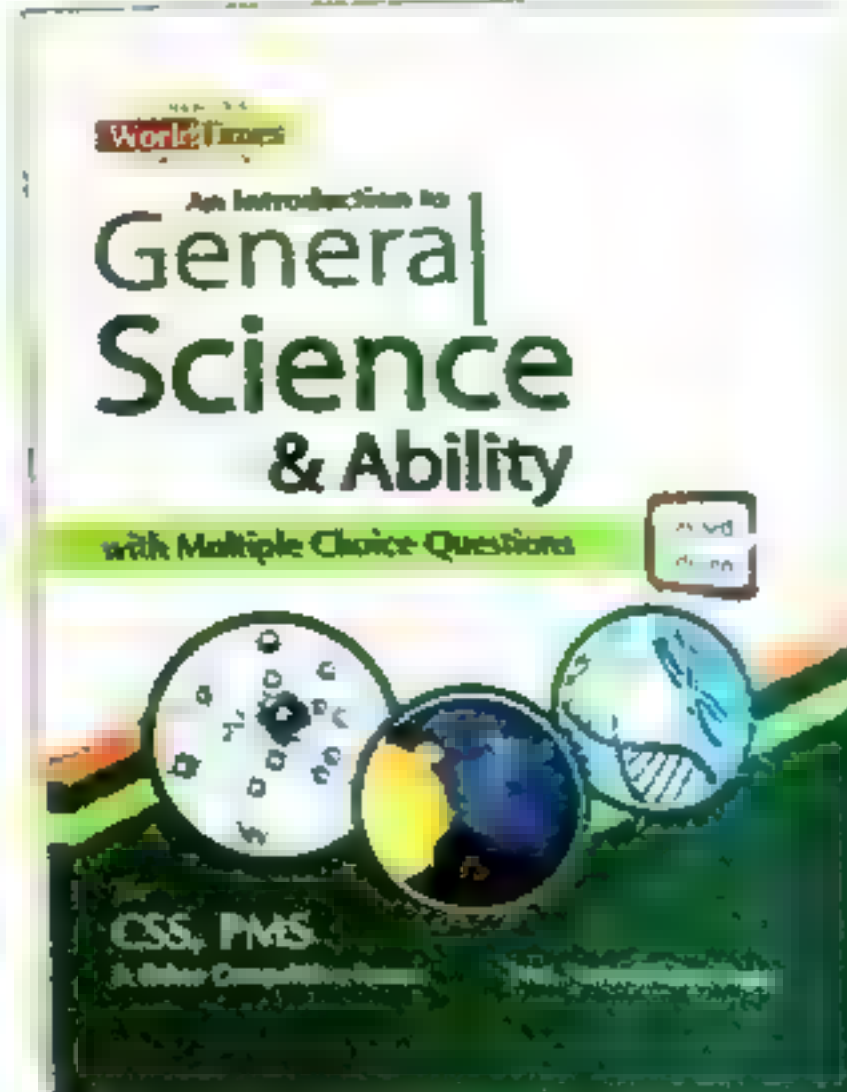
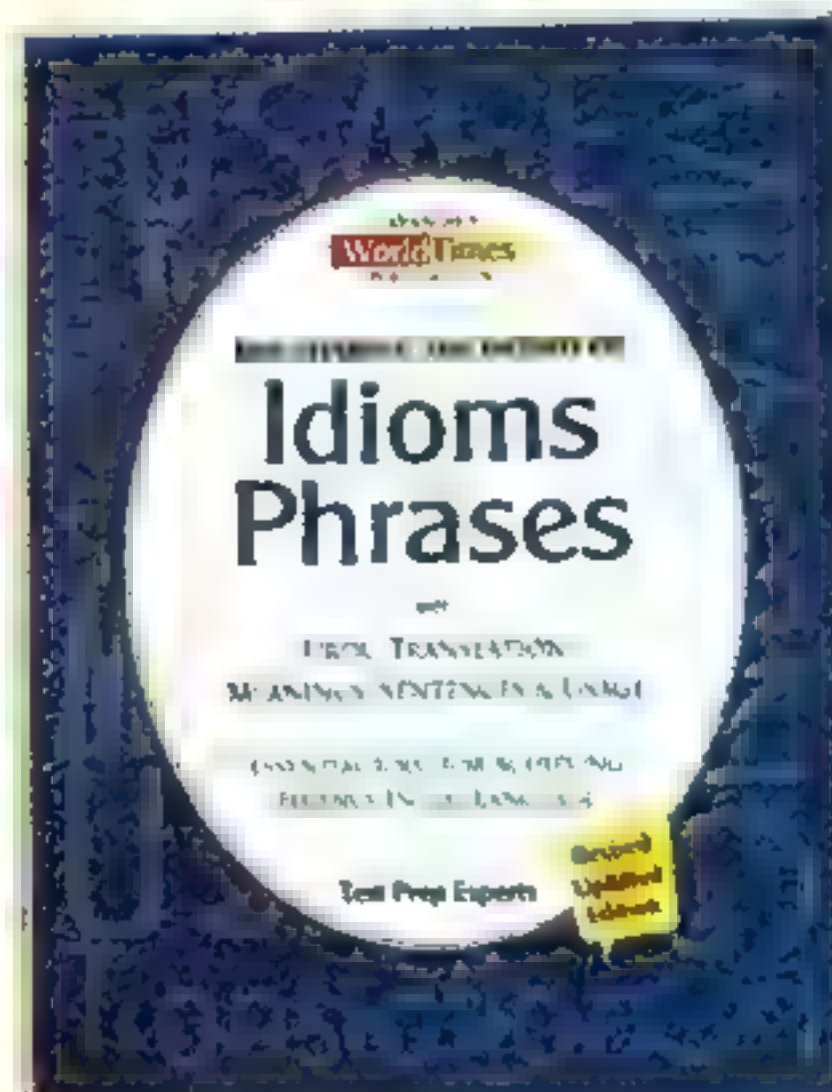
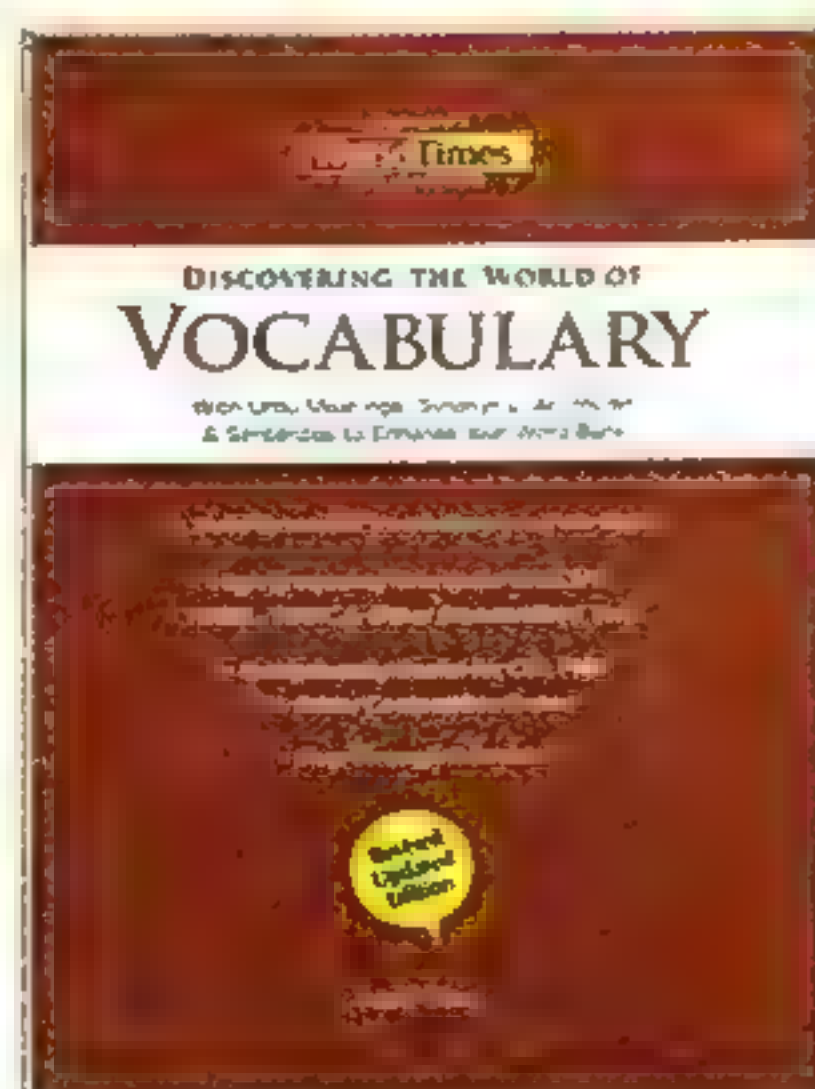
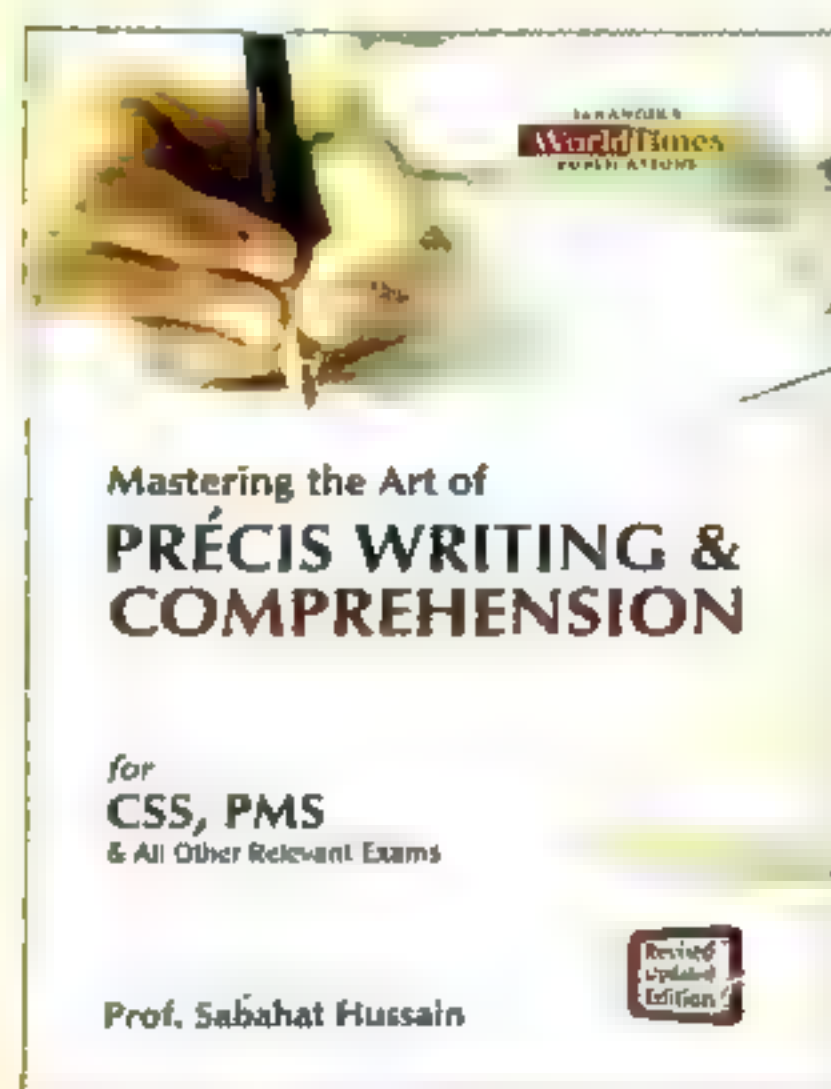
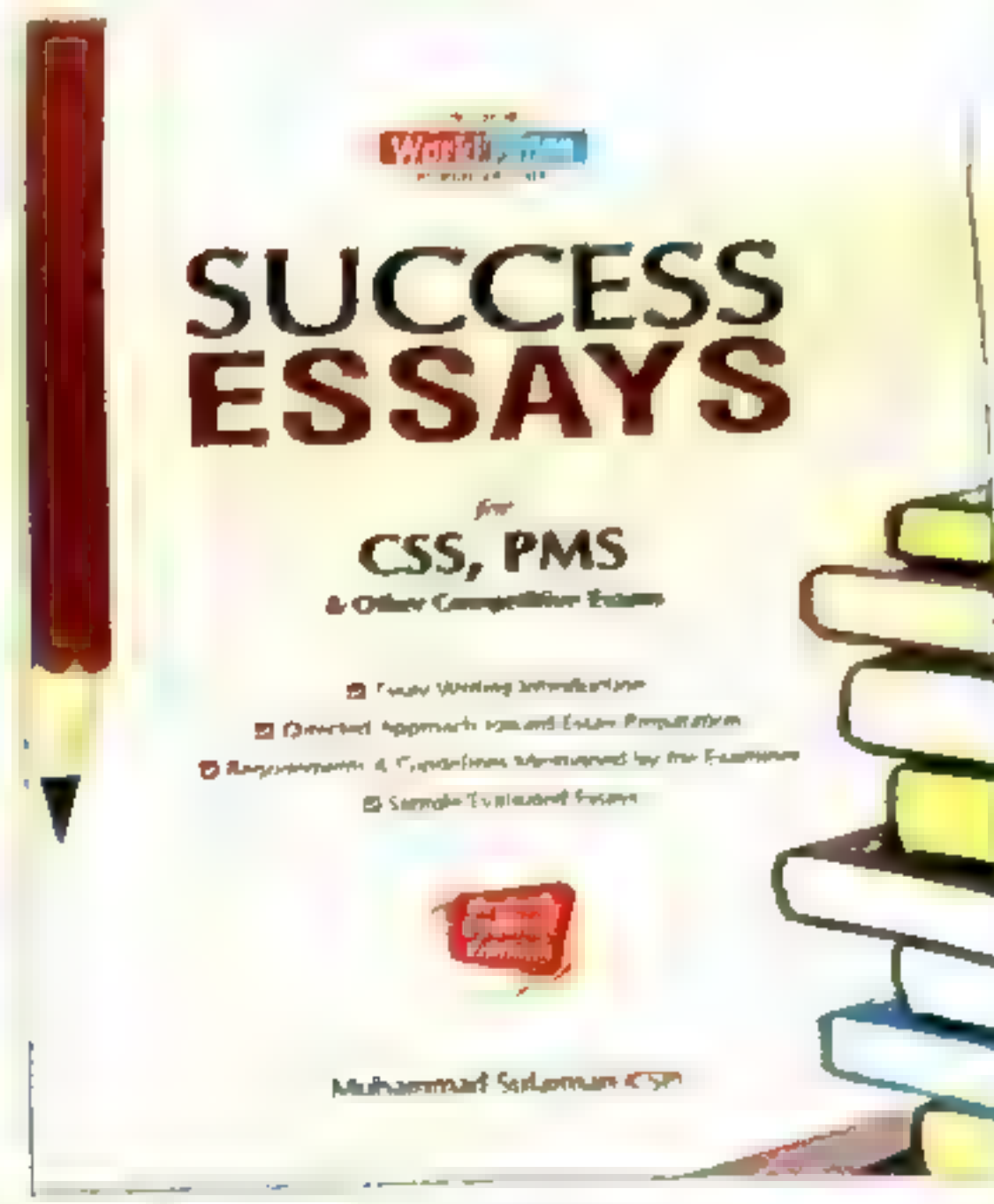
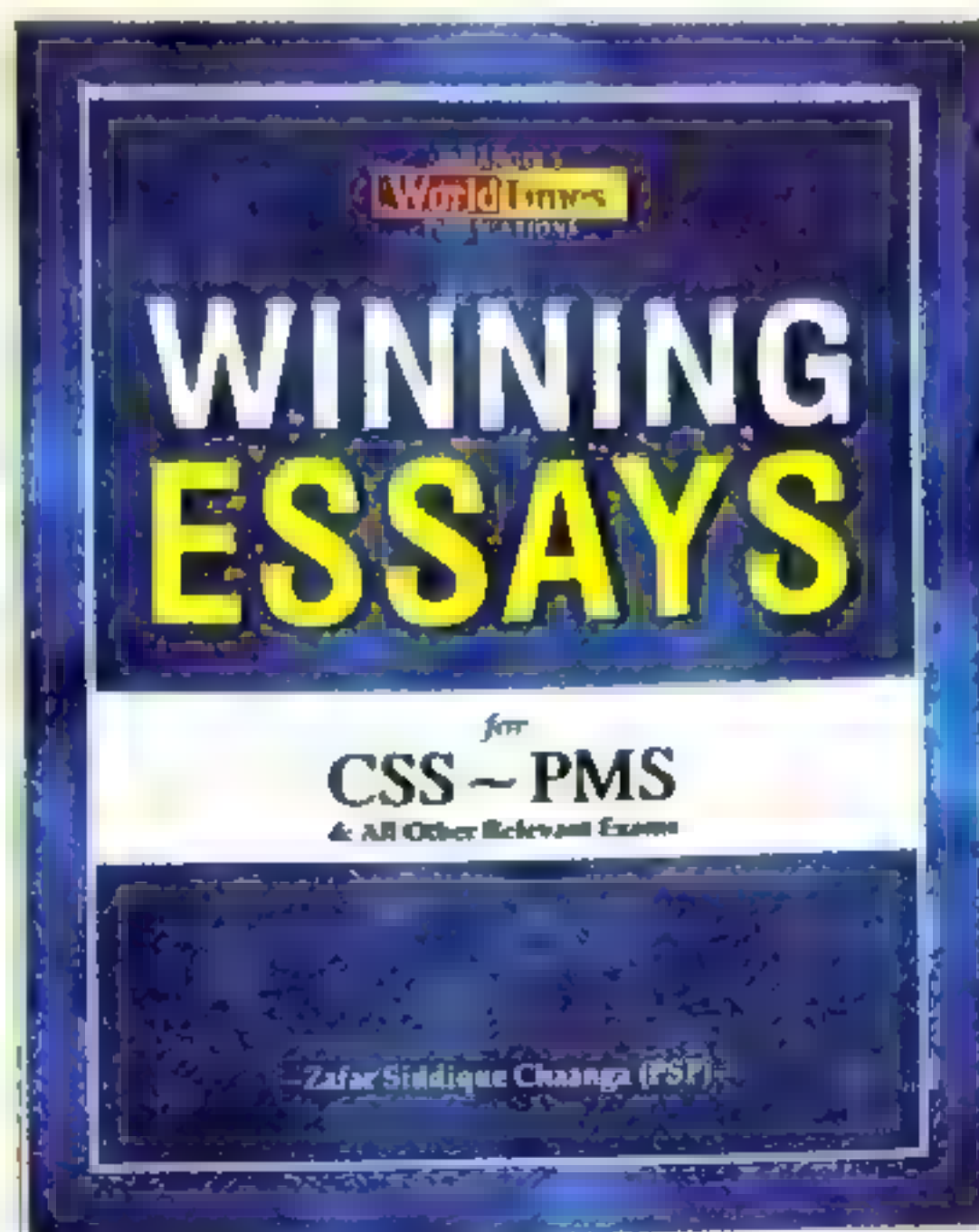
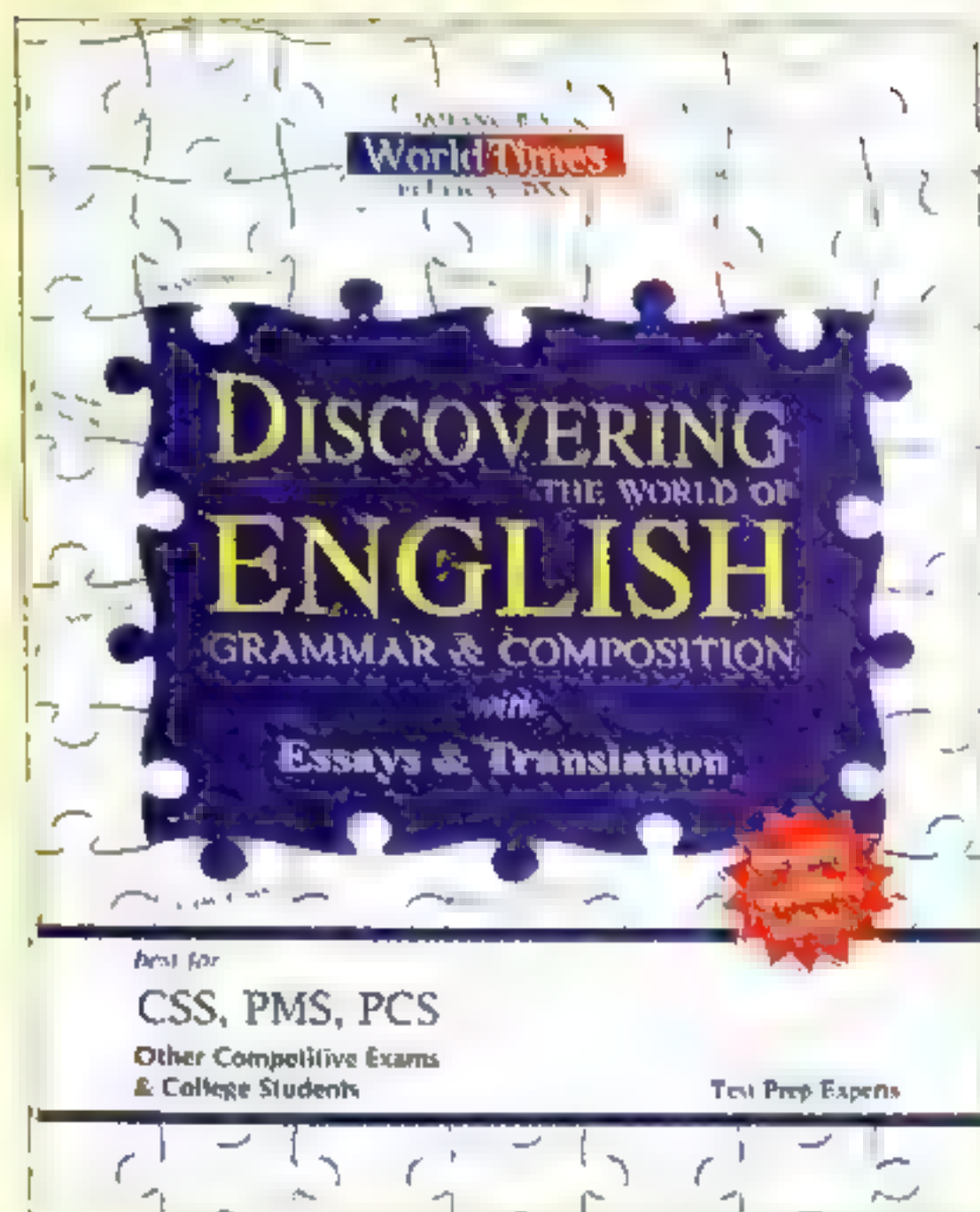


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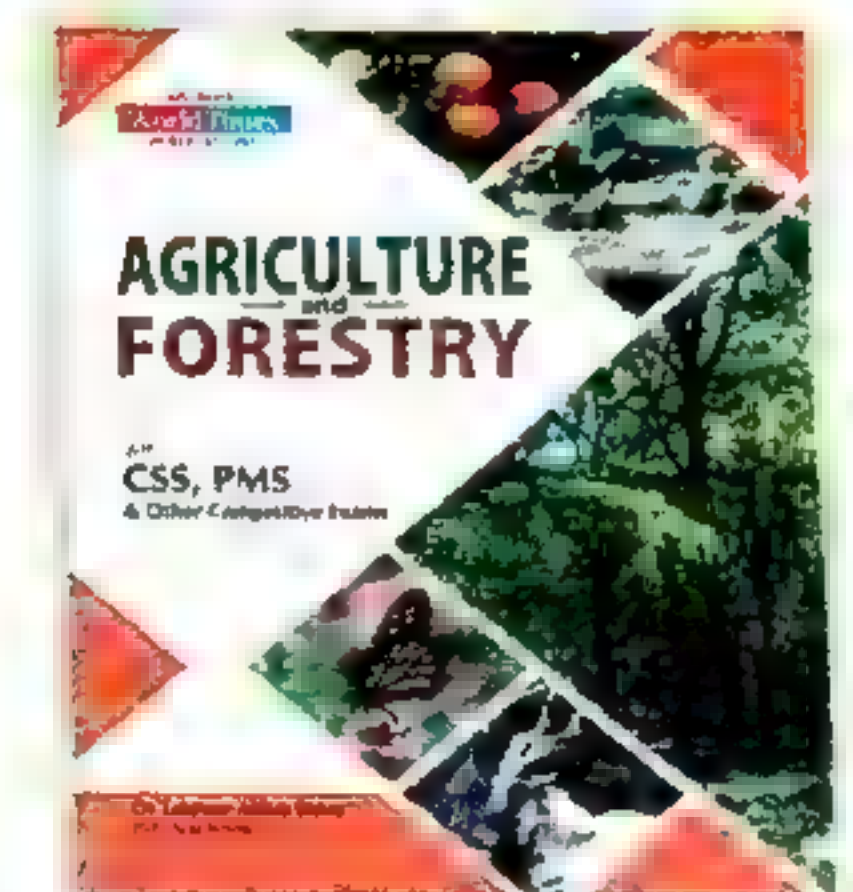
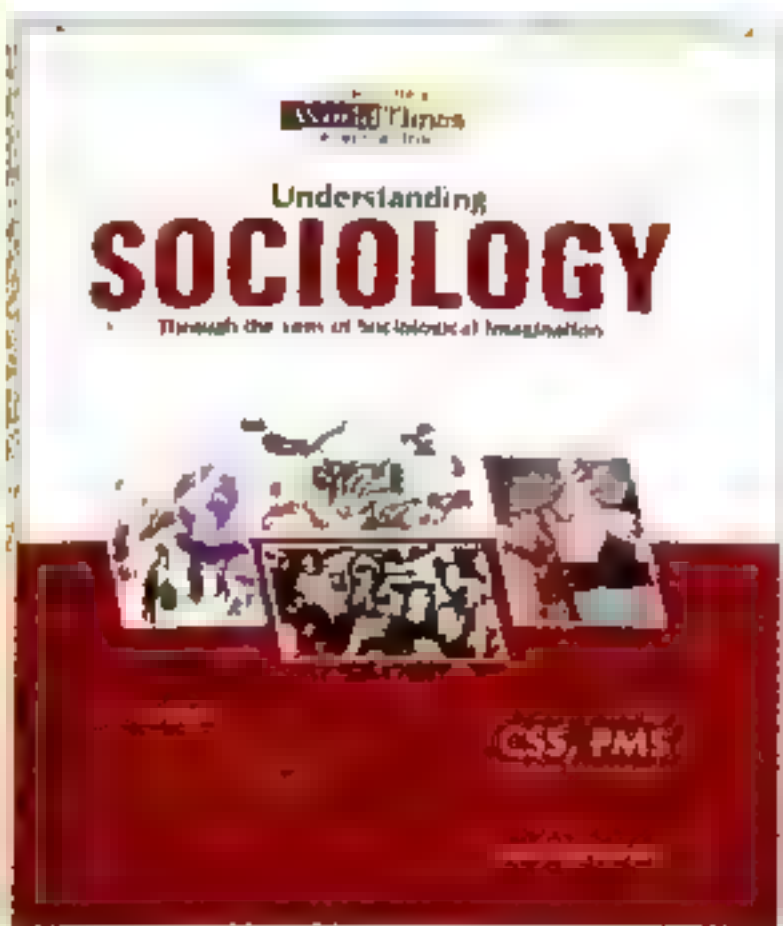
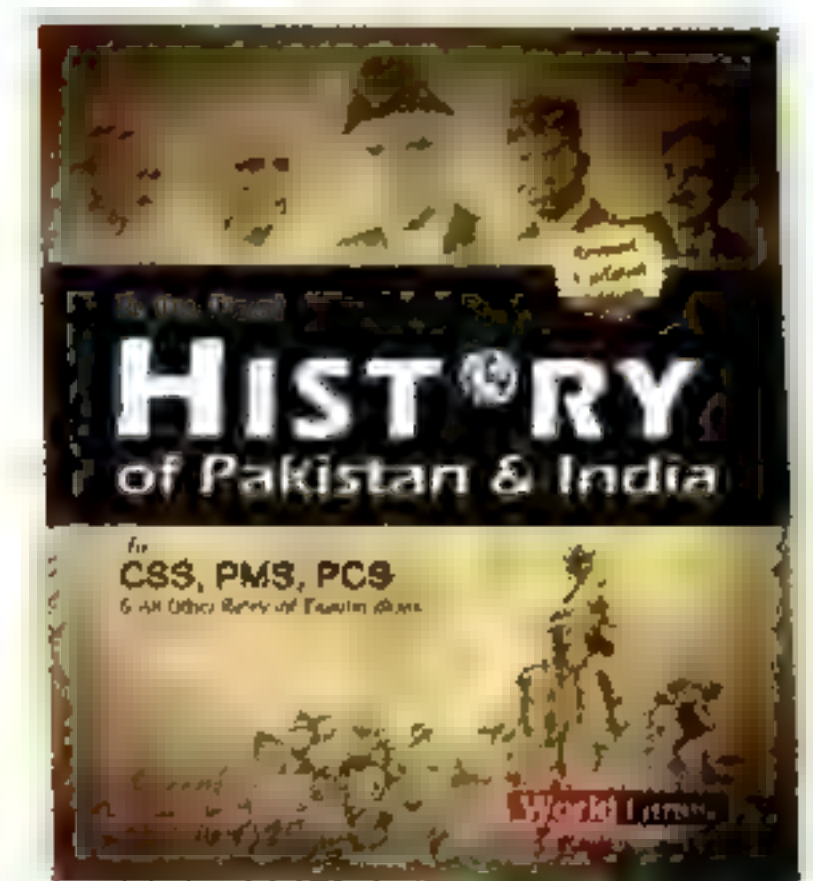
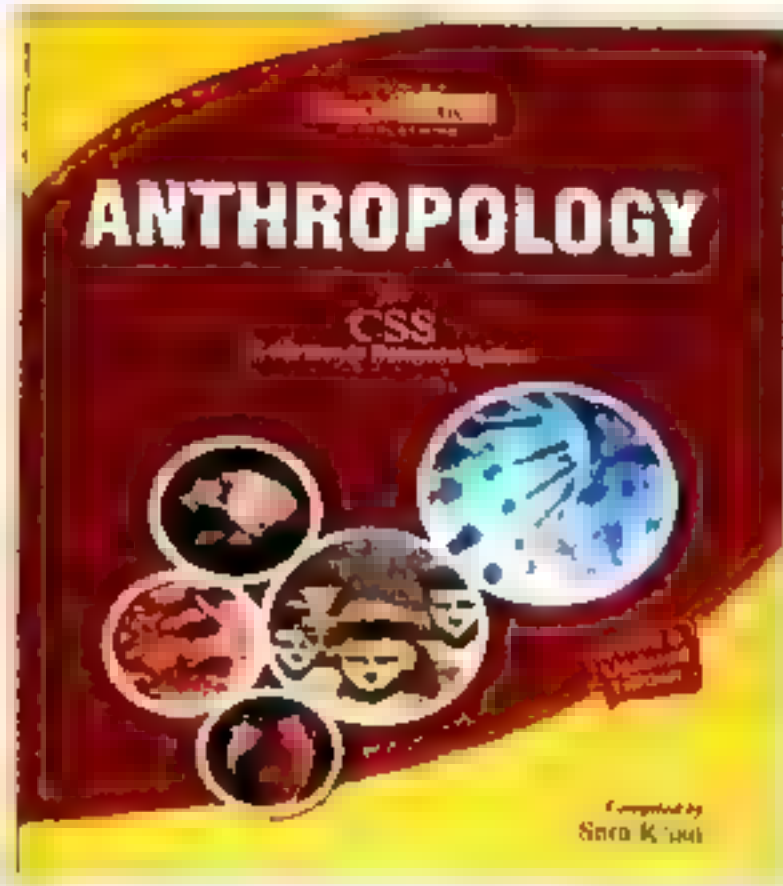
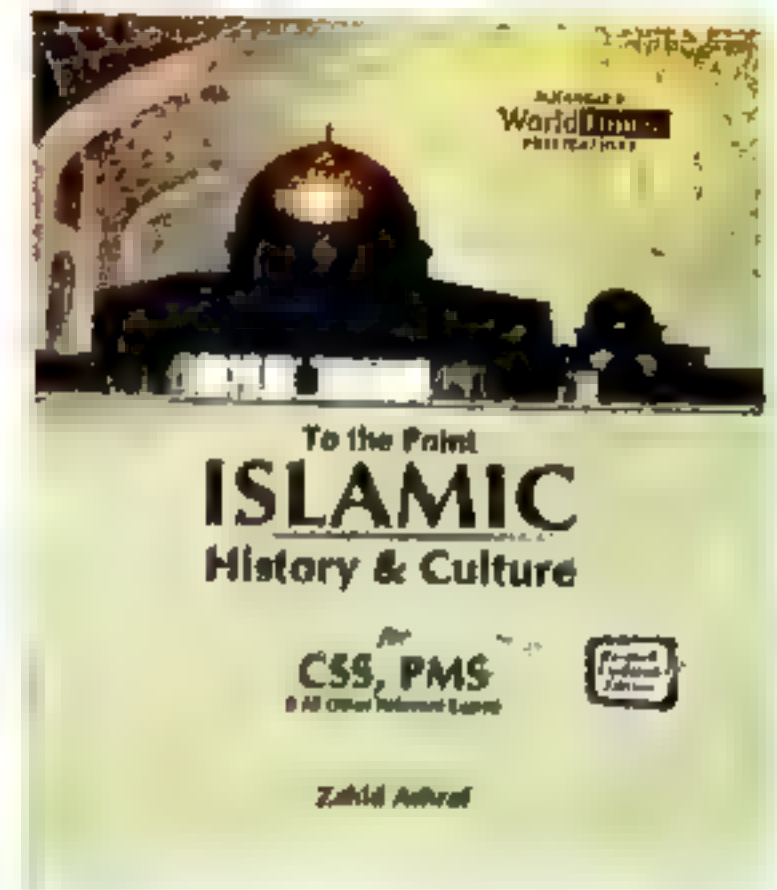
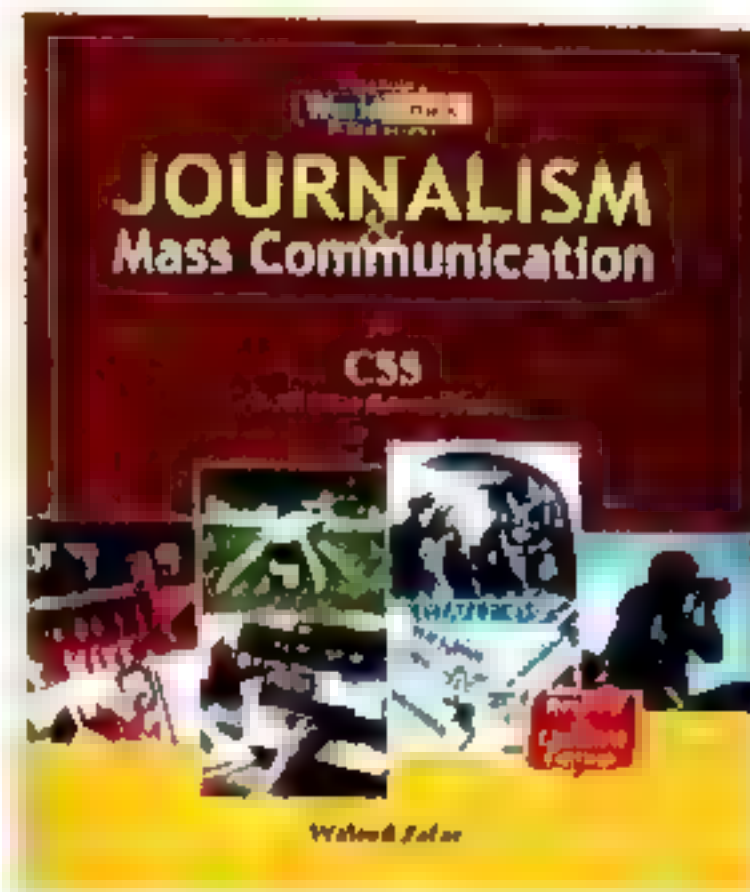
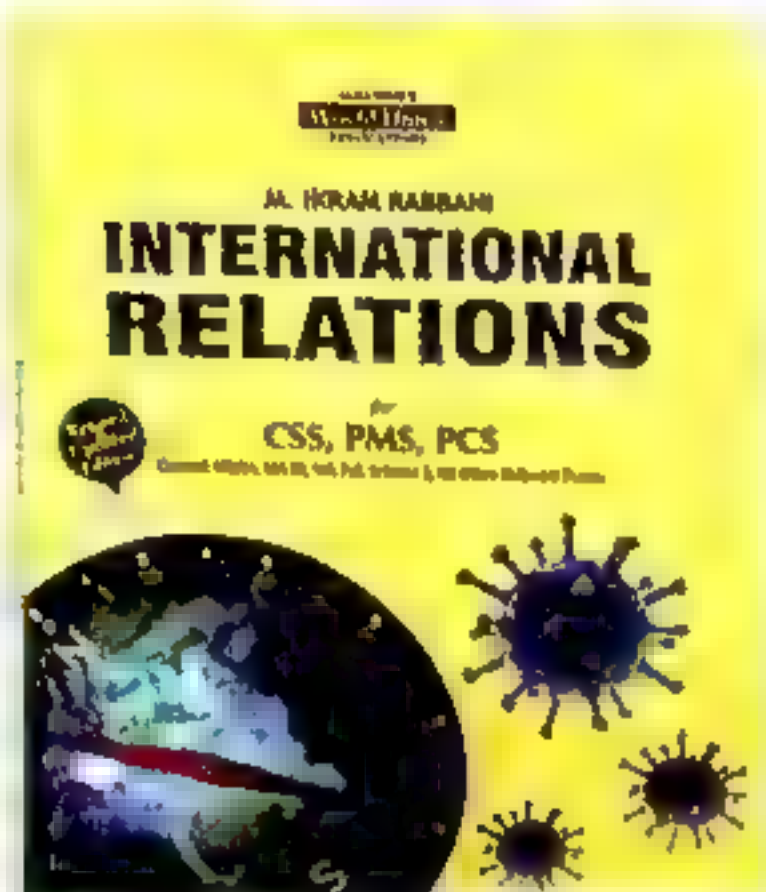
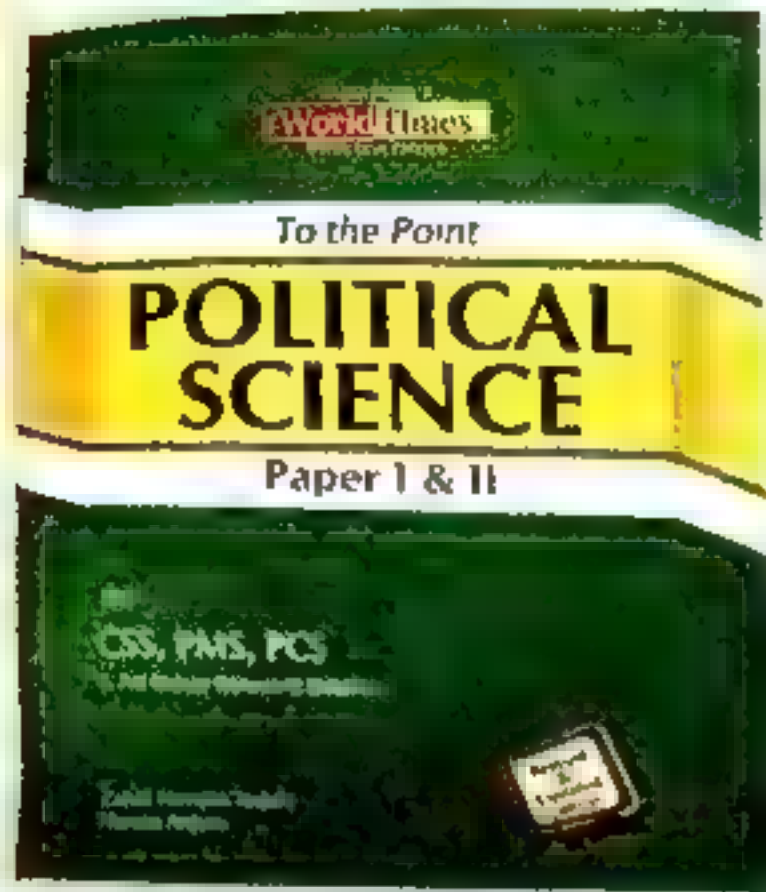
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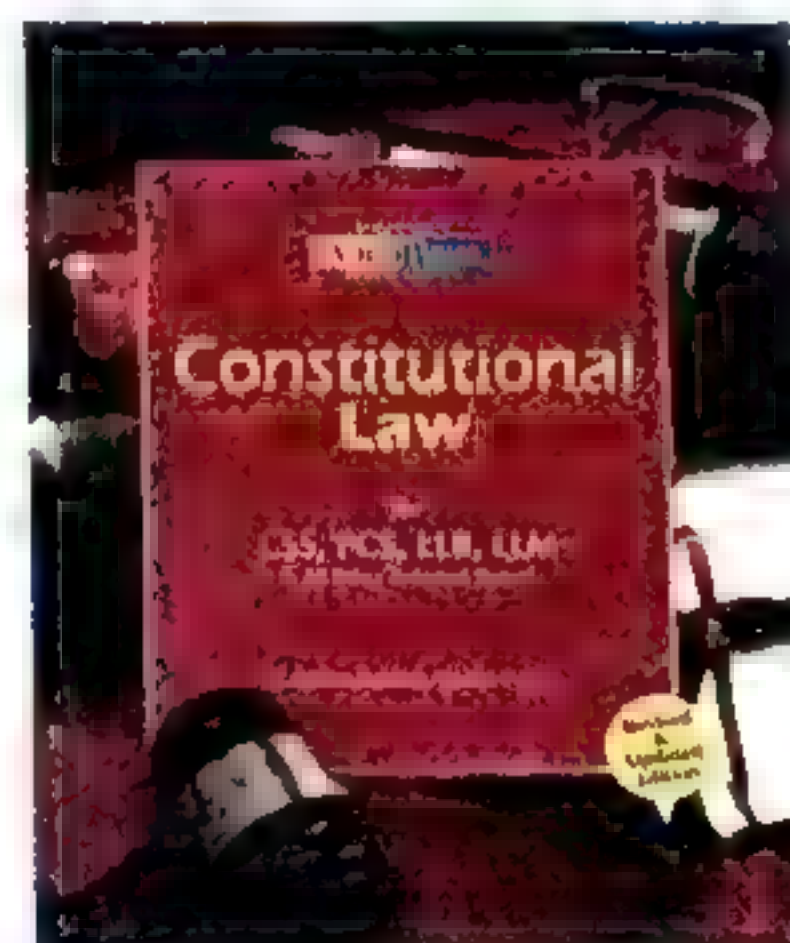
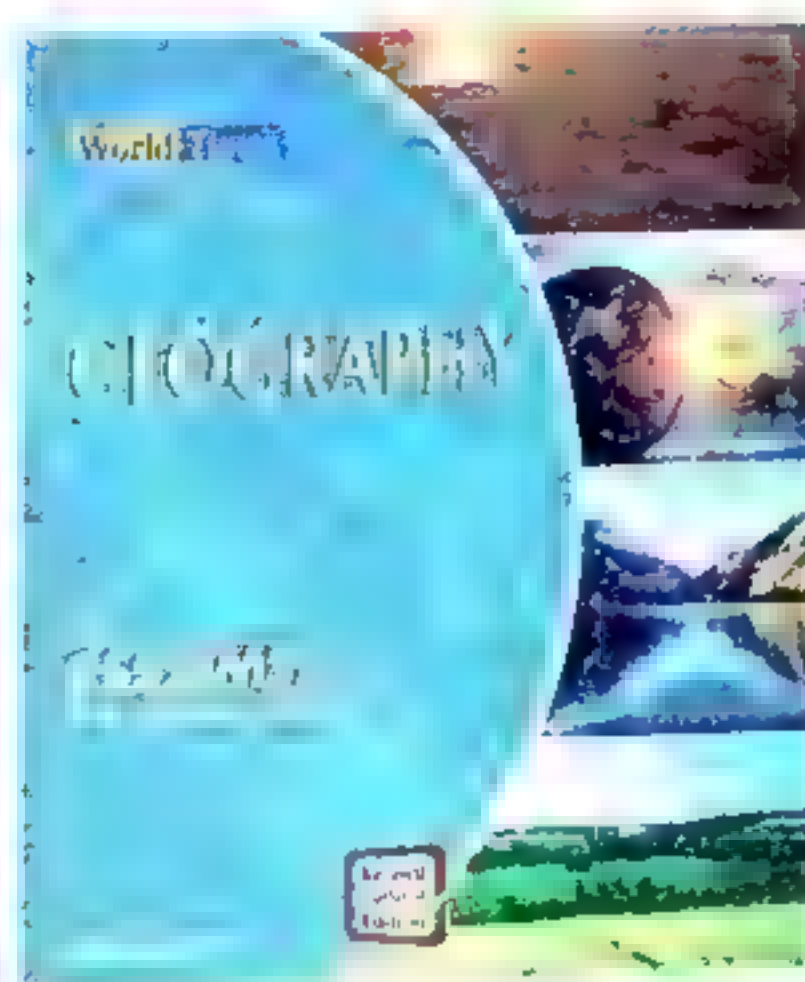
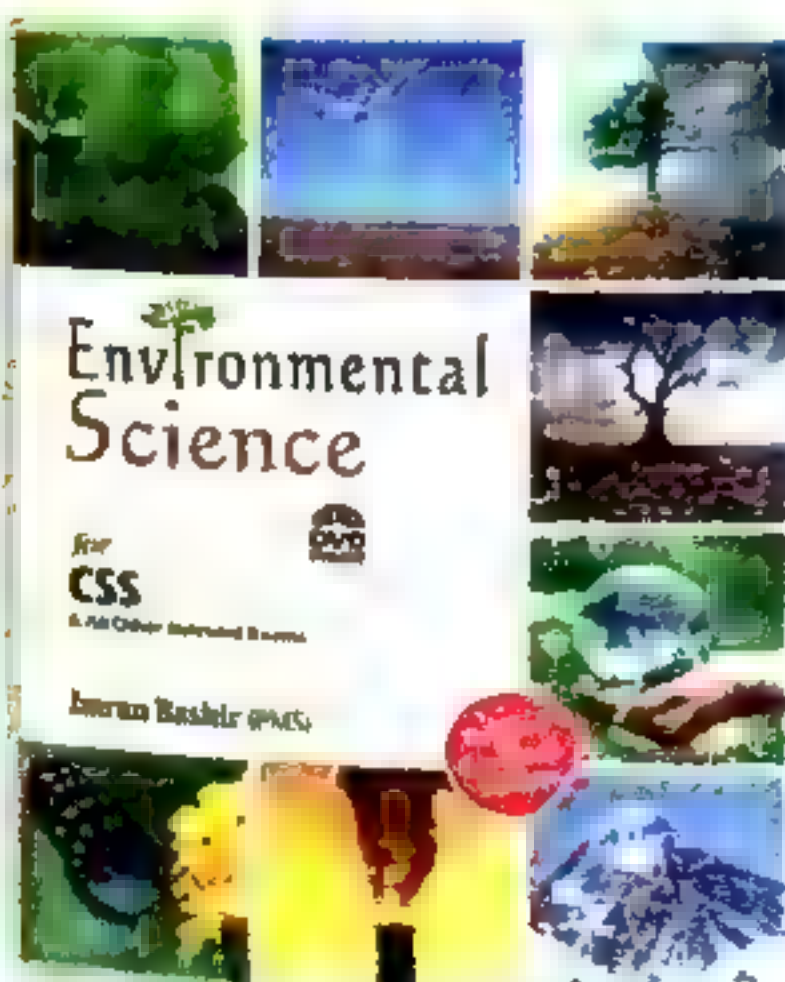
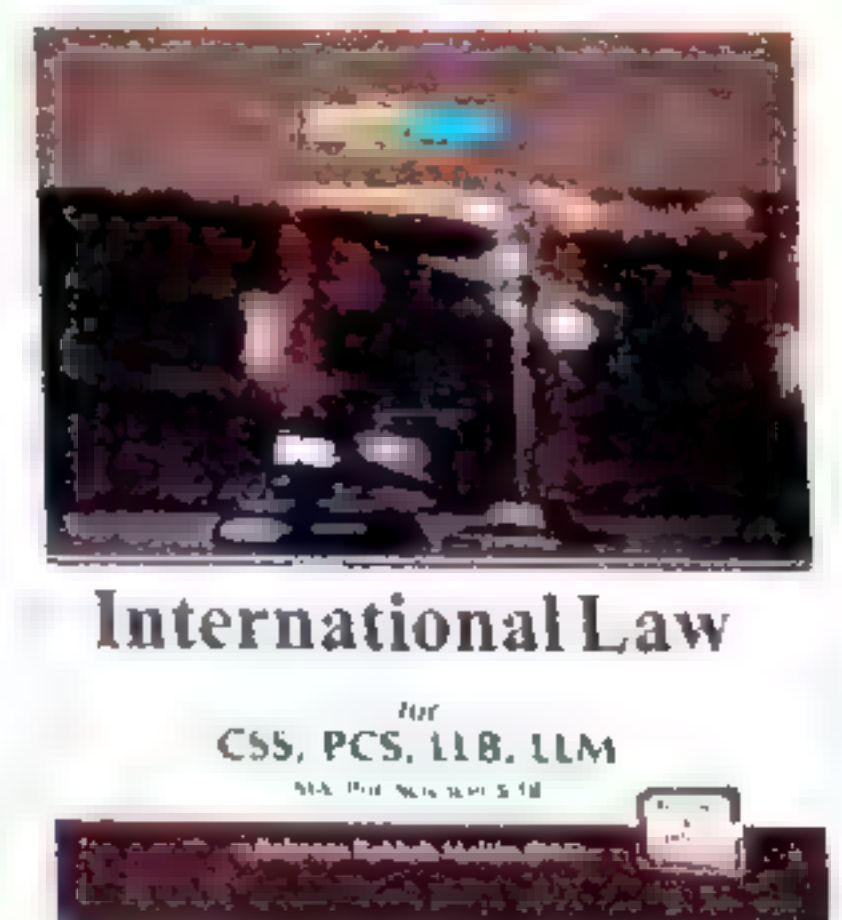
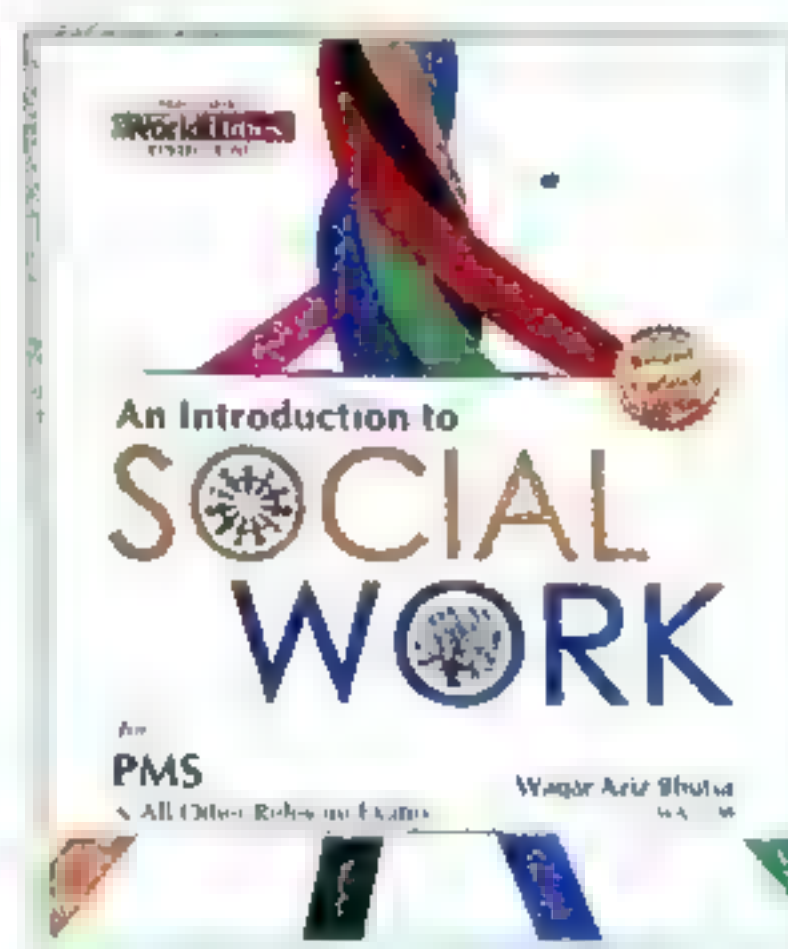
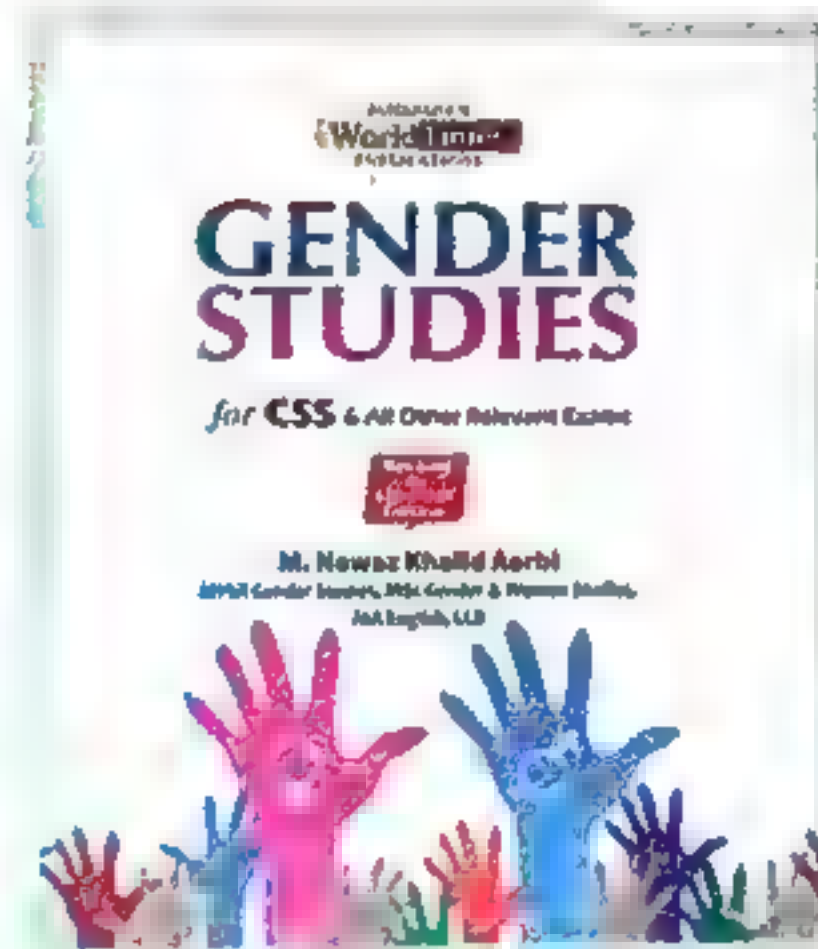
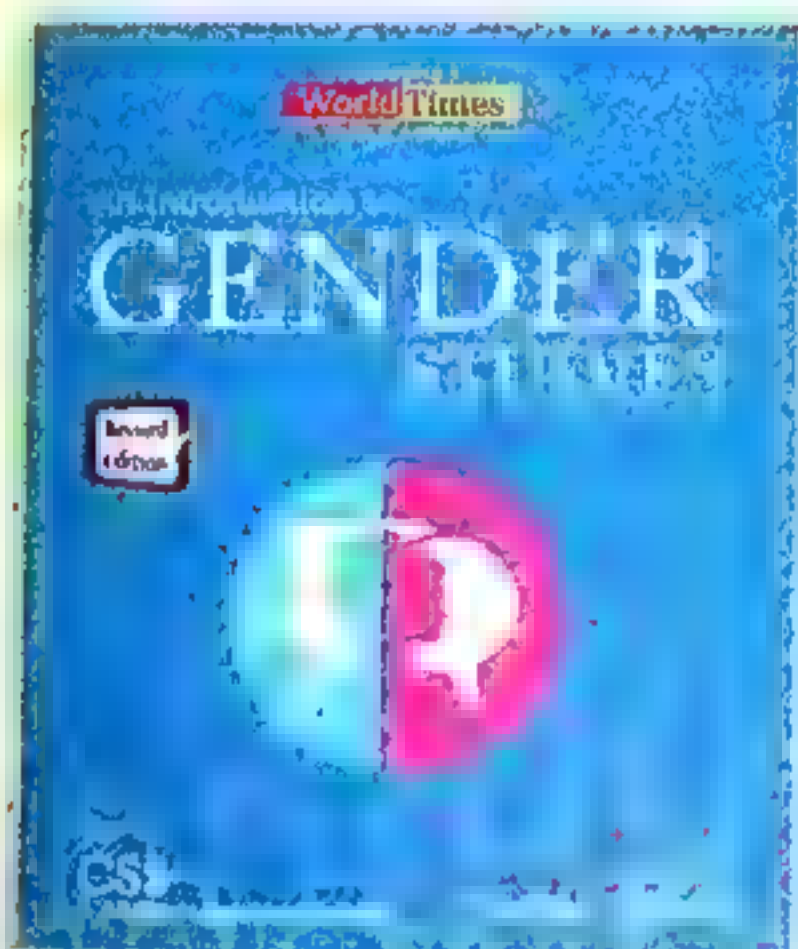
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WORLD IN FOCUS

NATIONAL

M. Usman Butt



Aug. 16: Dr Khawar Jameel, a son of Dr Jameel Jalibi – the shining star of Urdu literature – established “Dr Jameel Jalibi Research Library” in memory of his father.

Aug. 16: The government promoted Air Commodore Muhammad Ikramul Haq Noor to the rank of Air Vice Marshal.

Aug. 16: Prime Minister Imran Khan (PMIK) launched the first phase of Single National Curriculum for students from grade one to five.

Aug. 16: Chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al-Rowailly, called on PMIK and Chief of the Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa (COAS Gen Bajwa), separately.

Aug. 16: Supreme Court (SC) Chief Justice (CJ) Gulzar Ahmed administered oath of the office to Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar as judge of the SC.

Aug. 16: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, inaugurated an environment friendly e-taxi for northern areas of the country.

Aug. 17: Rawalakot Hawks won the inaugural Kashmir Premier League (KPL) title by defeating Muzaffarabad Tigers in the final.

Aug. 17: The president appointed Justice Umer Ata Bandial, senior most judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the acting chief justice of Pakistan.

Aug. 17: Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry was elected as the 28th president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Aug. 17: Justice Mushir Alam of the Supreme Court declared illegal and unconstitutional a PPP-

School closure has badly hit learning process

Pakistan is among those South Asian countries where school closures have led to alarming inequities in learning opportunities for children, despite significant efforts by their governments and partners to expand remote learning, according to a new research conducted by Unicef.

The research conducted in Pakistan, India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka notes that school closures in South Asia due to the Covid19 pandemic have interrupted the learning of 434 million children.

In Pakistan, 23 percent of younger children didn't have access to any device that could support remote learning. Poor and disadvantaged households have been the worst hit, with many families struggling to afford even a single device.

Even when devices are available, Unicef's research indicates that they are often underutilised and that children's access to them is often limited. For example, in Pakistan, among children with access to devices, only about 24 percent could use them when they wanted to.

According to Unicef's research, a substantial proportion of students and their parents reported that students learnt significantly less compared to pre-pandemic levels. Despite significant efforts from governments, low connectivity and access to digital devices have severely hampered efforts to roll out remote learning.

The research found that student-teacher engagement, when regular and reciprocal, is a strong predictor of success in children's learning, especially for younger students.

However, the surveys found that most students had little or no contact with their teachers after schools closed. To ensure that children keep learning, Unicef has called on governments to prioritise the safe reopening of all schools, while also ensuring that children are able to pursue quality learning, remotely if necessary; and teachers to assess children's learning levels and ensure catch-up is enabled through a 'learning recovery' period.

Governments should prioritise the vaccination of teachers to support the safe reopening of schools, and train and equip teachers to better reach children and adolescents with limited or no access to technology through a combination of modalities, including mobile devices, TV, radio and printed materials.

Governments and donors should protect and expand investments in education, including critical pre-primary and foundational literacy and numeracy, while private sector and civil society organisations to work with governments in improving connectivity and creating high-quality, multilingual remote learning content tailored to students' needs.

Education emergency

The PTI government's much-hailed Single National Curriculum has been a subject of intense debate from the minute the initiative's details – however few – started trickling down to the people. A uniform curriculum was one of the main pillars of the PTI manifesto, and work on it began under the federal education minister from the get-go. Curriculum changes require immense time and effort, but, unfortunately, politics is about instant results – a reality this country has been suffering from for years now wherein political leaders, with an eye on the next election, prefer projects that deliver instantly. However, something as sensitive and important as school curriculum should surely not be rushed, incorporate the input of all stakeholders of society and only be implemented once it enjoys ownership across the board. While the federal education minister's acknowledgement that curricula and textbooks are not static, and that all feedback on the SNC will be considered during its review is a much welcome development, that should not be the end of the story. What is most required is an open and honest attempt to clarify all reservations expressed by educationists and parents alike. If the SNC is indeed an 'experiment', it would be prudent to ask why it could not have been rolled out on a limited scale to assess loopholes and incorporate public reaction, instead of the same happening now when the lessons are already being taught in classrooms. Critics have also been asking about the transparency issues in the exercise – who all are the stakeholders that were consulted and what were their inputs, and where can parents access the complete updated syllabus? Any information vacuum will always just end up compounding confusion, which is what we have been seeing a lot of – especially among parents who can only rely on their own children's textbooks or snippets of pages being shared on social media, some of them not even from the SNC. cursory analysis of some textbooks has revealed both the good and the disturbing. There has encouragingly been an emphasis on tolerance, animal rights and the environment. However, there are also serious concerns regarding some of the portrayal of women and girls in our society and references to the majority religion in non-religious subjects – a longstanding concern of minority groups. Instead of responding to these genuine apprehensions, those calling for a review of the SNC have been dubbed by government officials as 'resisting' uniform education. Curricula shape our collective future which is why any reservations or concerns need to be treated gently – not by taunting people about being 'mafias' or 'foreign-influenced elite'. There is a larger debate regarding the SNC; it cannot be wished away. There is also a debate regarding how women are portrayed in textbooks, in the media; that too cannot be brushed aside. Minority communities in the country do feel cornered by the majoritarian approach to things; that is a valid concern as well. The PM is not wrong in wishing to reform the education system in the country. But the SNC cannot possibly be a magic wand that fixes what is essentially broken in the education system: low budgets and enrolment, lack of quality teachers and teaching, dilapidated buildings, exorbitantly high fees at private institutes. What is most required is for all provinces – since education is a provincial subject – to revamp their education sectors and enhance implementation capacity. Unless the capacity of teachers and school structures are adequate, even the best curriculum – single or multiple – will remain confined to books. Surely, the end goal for any education system is producing students who think critically and are equipped to meet the modern world's challenges. That does not necessarily come with uniformity.

era law called Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance Act, 2010, under which a number of people were employed or promoted.

Aug. 18: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) won a landmark case at the Supreme Court of England after five judges unanimously ruled that Pakistani national airliner was right to use lawful act under economic duress on a British Pakistani travel agent while enforcing a new contract for sales of tickets to Pakistan in 2012.

Aug. 18: Pakistan was ranked 153rd among the 193 countries surveyed in the 2020 UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI) report.

Aug. 20: The Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC), Athar Minallah, suspended the allotment of plots to judges of the high court and subordinate judiciary on lower prices through balloting in sectors F-14 and F-15.

Aug. 20: Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad was appointed as the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Aug. 20: Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri was appointed as the High Commissioner to Australia.

Aug. 21: Former CJ of the Federal Shariat Court Riaz Ahmad Khan died. He was 69.

Aug. 22: Pakistan's 15-year-old Imaad Ali became the world Youth Scrabble Champion for the second time, the first in the world to have done so.

Aug. 24: Pakistan received \$2.75 billion from the IMF under its new Special Drawing Rights allocation.

Aug. 24: Pakistan conducted a successful test-flight of indigenously-developed Fatah-1 (Guided Multi Launch Rocket System), capable of delivering conventional warhead.

Aug. 24: SAPM on Finance and Revenues, Dr Waqar Masood, tendered his resignation.

Aug. 24: The government removed Chairman FBR Asim Ahmed replacing him with Dr Ashfaq Ahmed.

Aug. 24: Pakistan managed to level the series by 1-1 after defeating West Indies by 109 runs in the second test.

Aug. 24: The Ministry of 'Water Resources notified the appointment of retired Lt Gen Muzammil Hussain as the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) chairman for a second consecutive term of five years.

Aug. 25: The opening ceremony of the third Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise "Dostarym III" was held at the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi.

Aug. 25: Russian President Vladimir Putin phoned PMIK and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, and discussed efforts to counter threats emanating from Afghanistan and setting up of an inclusive government there.

Aug. 25: PMIK inaugurated the country's first 'Smart Forest' in

Tokyo Paralympics 2020 August 24-September 5					
Rank	Teams				Total
1	 China	96	60	51	207
2	 Great Britain	41	38	45	124
3	 USA	37	36	31	104
4	 NPO	36	33	49	118
5	 Netherlands	25	17	17	59

the Rakh Jhok area of Sheikhupura — the first of its kind being equipped with technology sensors and surveillance systems.

Aug. 26: A 15-member AJK cabinet took oath.

Aug. 26: The Supreme Court dismissed the suo motu notice, taken by Justice Qazi Faez Isa on an application regarding harassment of journalists and held that the CJP is the sole authority for invoking the original jurisdiction enshrined in the Constitution under Article 184(3).

Aug. 26: Qazi Musarrat Hussain, a member of the Pakistan hockey team which won country's first ever Olympic medal (silver) in any sports at the 1956 Olympics, breathed his last.

Aug. 26: The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) approved the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2021-30 with the focus on pursuing renewable and nuclear energy projects.

Aug. 27: PMIK launched the 'Roshan Apna Ghar' scheme for nonresident Pakistanis who can purchase or obtain financing for a house in the country through Roshan Digital Account.

Aug. 27: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin unveiled short-, medium and long-term economic programme for 14 key sectors to ensure sustainable growth.

Aug. 27: Renowned educationist, feminist and human rights activist, Rubina Saigol, passed away.

Aug. 27: The district administration Faisalabad set a new record of planting 100,000 saplings in one go.

Aug. 29: Veteran politician M. Hamza died of Covid-19. He was 92.

Aug. 30: COAS Gen Bajwa briefed a delegation comprising members of the Parliamentary Kashmir Committee and Defence Committees of the Senate and National Assembly, that visited the General Headquarters (GHQ).

Aug. 30: First time in the history of Malakand division, a Women Police Station was setup in Swat district to resolve issues of women on priority basis.

Aug. 31: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) issued an order to declassify all government reports that are more than 20 years old.

Aug. 31: A consortium of four Pakistani oil companies was awarded exploration rights for Offshore Block-5 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) the first time the UAE's biggest energy producer granted a concession to firms from Pakistan.

Aug. 31: Pakistani microfinance pioneer and a development worker, Mohammad Amjad Saqib, was declared as one of the winners of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

Sept. 01: Veteran Hurriyat Leader Syed Ali Geelani passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 92.

PMIK announced that the Pakistan flag will fly at half mast and the country will observe a day of official mourning.

Sept. 01: The first China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in the power evacuation and transmission sector, the 660kV High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Matiari-Lahore transmission line, started commercial operations.

Sept. 02: Pakistan Navy inducted its first modern Long Range Maritime Patrol twin-engine jet aircraft.

Sept. 02: As the family was preparing for the last rites of Syed Ali Geelani, a heavy contingent of the occupation forces raided his residence in Srinagar, harassed the family

members and snatched Syed Ali Geelani's dead body.

Sept. 02: Veteran politician and the first chief minister of Balochistan, Sardar Attaullah Mengal, died at the age of 93.

Sept. 02: KP government gave representation to a Hindu woman in Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) by appointing Mala Kumari, a 28-year old, master degree-holder from Kurram District.

Sept. 03: Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu took over as president of the Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF).

Sept. 03: Athlete Haider Ali made history by winning a gold medal in the discus throw competition at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games, becoming the first Pakistani to do so.

Sept. 03: Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi was appointed as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS).

Sept. 04: Pakistan's premier wrestler and the world's beach wrestling king, Mohammad Inam Butt, won the Beach Wrestling World Series which was held in Rome.

Sept. 04: During a telephone call with Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, PMIK once more stressed the need for the international community to engage with the Afghans.

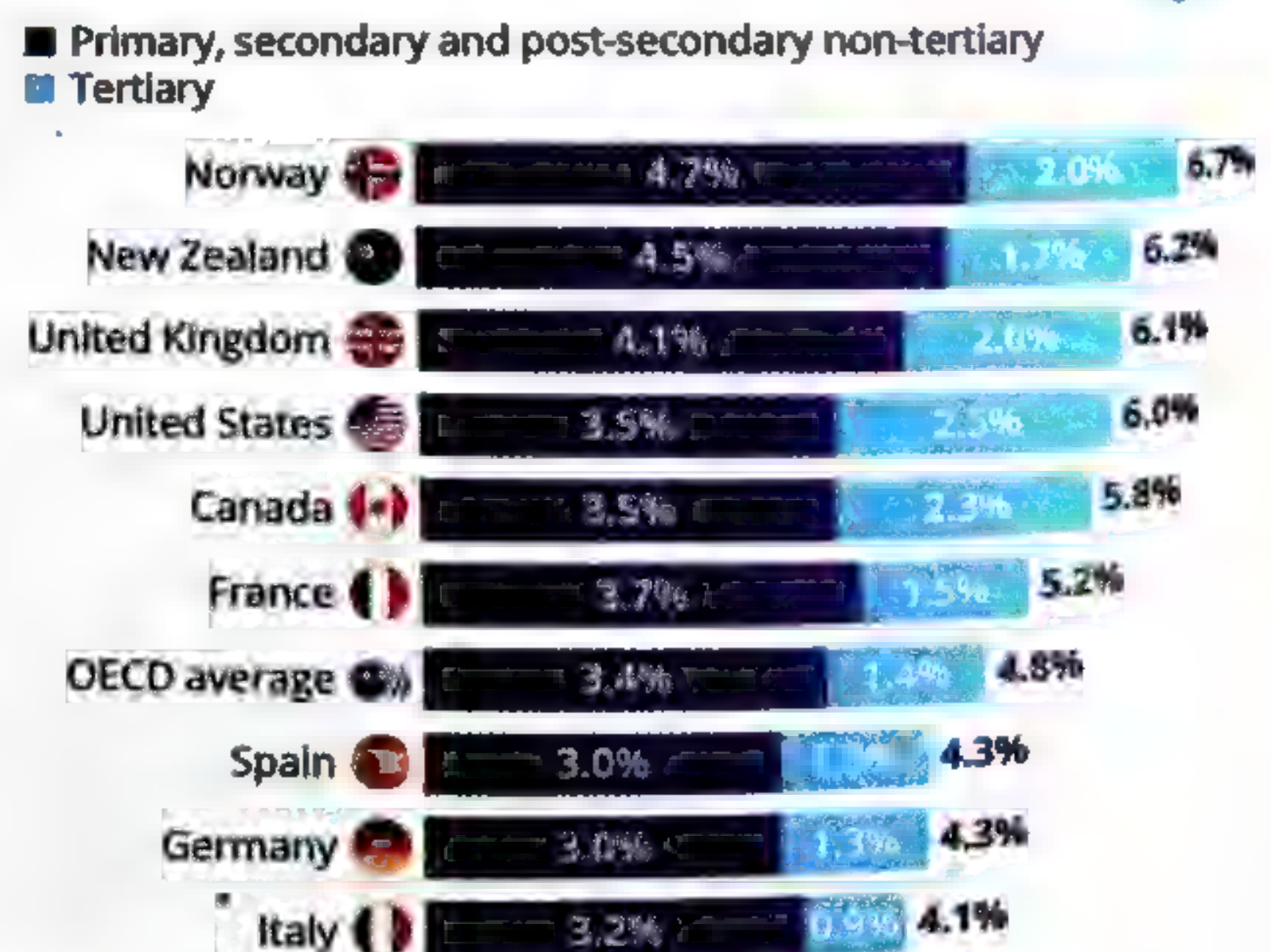
Sept. 04: Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Faiz Hameed visited Kabul to meet with the Taliban representatives and discuss matters related to safe evacuation of foreign nationals, border management and security in the region.

Sept. 05: Pakistan hosted a virtual meeting of the special representatives or envoys of the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan. Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq chaired the session with the participation of China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Sept. 06: PMIK appointed former federal finance secretary, Dr Kamran Ali Afzal, the new chief secretary and Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) director general, Additional IGP Rao Sardar, the new Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Punjab.

How Much Do Countries Spend on Education?

Education spending as a share of GDP in selected countries (2018)



World debt approaching record \$300 trillion

Global debt rose to a new record high of nearly \$300 trillion in the second quarter, but the debt-to-GDP ratio declined for the first time since the start of the pandemic as economic growth rebounded, the Institute of International Finance (IIF) has reported. Total debt levels, which include government, household and corporate and bank debt, rose \$4.8 trillion to \$296 trillion at the end of June, after a slight decline in the first quarter, to stand \$36 trillion above pre-pandemic levels. "If the borrowing continues at this pace, we expect global debt to exceed \$300 trillion," said Emre Tiftik, IIF's director of sustainability research. The rise in debt levels was the sharpest among emerging markets, with total debt rising \$3.5 trillion in the second quarter from the preceding three months to reach almost \$92 trillion. In a positive sign for the debt outlook, the IIF reported a decline in the global debt-to-GDP ratio for the first time since the outbreak of the coronavirus crisis.

Debt as a share of gross domestic product fell to around 353% in the second quarter, from a record high of 362% in the first three months of this year. The IIF said that of the 61 countries it monitored, 51 recorded a decline in debt-to-GDP levels, mostly on the back of a strong rebound in economic activity. But it added that, in many cases, the recovery had not been strong enough to push debt ratios back below pre-pandemic levels. According to the IIF, total debt-to-GDP ratios excluding the financial sector are below pre-pandemic levels in just five countries: Mexico, Argentina, Denmark, Ireland and Lebanon.

Sept. 07: Olympian Jahangir Butt, one of the stalwarts of the golden era of Pakistan hockey, passed away. He was 78.

Sept. 07: The first auction of the Walton Airport land was made successful in the second attempt as the Lahore Central Business District Development Authority (LCBDDA) managed to fetch Rs21.588 billion from the sale of five plots.

Sept. 07: Pakistan Army reshuffled four three-star generals, posting Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza as the new Corps Commander Rawalpindi. He would replace Lt. Gen Azhar Abbas who has been appointed as Chief of the General Staff in his place. Lt. Gen Waseem Ashraf, who was serving as Commander of Strike Corps Multan, has been given assignment of Director General Joint Staff Headquarters. He would be replaced by Lt. Gen Muhammad Chiragh Haider as Corps Commander Multan who was serving as DG Joint Staff Headquarters.

Sept. 07: The cargo ship stuck off at Karachi beach finally started floating after 48 days.

Sept. 07: One of legends of the golden era of Pakistani film music Wazir Afzal passed away. He was 87.

Sept. 08: Index provider MSCI Inc. downgraded Pakistan to a frontier market for no longer meeting the emerging market's classification standards for size and liquidity.

Sept. 08: The 25th meeting of the National Command Authority (NCA) was held under the chairmanship of PMIK at Strategic Plans Division Headquarters.

Sept. 08: All Parties Hurriyat Conference appointed Masarrat Aalam Butt as its new Chairman along with Shabbir Ahmad Shah and Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar as Vice Chairmen.

Sept. 08: The first-ever EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises was launched.

Sept. 09: Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta of the Aga Khan University (AKU) and the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) was awarded the 2021 Roux Prize, a US\$100,000 award for turning evidence into health impact.

Sept. 09: Three rear admirals of Pakistan Navy (PN) - Vice Admiral Imran Ahmed, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Vice Admiral Owais Ahmed Balgrami - were promoted to the rank

of vice admiral.

Sept. 09: The Apex Committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) decided to set up a national crisis information management cell to ensure timely, correct and smooth flow of information about internal security issues.

Sept. 09: Rahimullah Yusufzai, a journalist of international fame and a great human being, departed for the eternal abode.

Sept. 09: Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Joseph Burns visited Islamabad to discuss the latest situation in Afghanistan besides other issues.

Sept. 09: The former federal secretary Sajjadul Hasan passed away.

Sept. 10: Addressing the 243rd Corps Commanders' Conference in Rawalpindi, COAS Gen Bajwa reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to peace, and said that constructive engagement and sustained humanitarian support by the international community was imperative for enduring peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Sept. 11: Punjab's Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan resigned.

Sept. 11: DG ISI Lt Gen Faiz

Hameed hosted intelligence chiefs of regional countries - Russia, Iran, China, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan - in Islamabad to discuss the Afghan situation.

Sept. 11: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar announced that 'the general elections of 2023 will be held as per new census.

Sept. 12: Azeem Sarwar, one of the icons of broadcast media in Pakistan, breathed his last.

Sept. 12: Pakistan presented to world capitals and all world organizations a dossier proving how India was violating all international and humanitarian laws to bring about demographic change in the Indian Illegally Held Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

Sept. 12: Cantonment board elections were held across Pakistan. A total of 1,569 candidates stood for elections in

Mu: New Covid variant of interest

- Known scientifically as B.1.621, first identified in **Colombia in January**, reported in South America and Europe
- Among five **"variants of interest"** monitored by WHO
- Global prevalence below **0.1%** but it is at **39%** in Colombia among sequenced cases
- Has mutations with potential properties of **immune escape**
- Preliminary data indicates variant might be **resistant to Covid vaccines**, further studies needed

219 wards of 42 cantonment boards.

Sept. 13: The latest study titled 'The Missing Third: An out-of-school of Pakistani 5-16 year olds', conducted by the Pak Alliance for Math and Science on the out-of-school children (OOSC), revealed that over 20 million children between the ages of 5 and 16 years are out of school in Pakistan.

Sept. 13: The Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) decided to pass all students of grade 10 and 12.

Sept. 13: Former Australian batsman Matthew Hayden and ex-South Africa pacer Vernon Philander were appointed Pakistan coaches for T20 World Cup in UAE.

Sept. 13: President Arif Alvi addressed the joint sitting of the two Houses of parliament. The presidential address to the Parliament also marked the beginning of the fourth parliamentary year of the sitting National Assembly.

Sept. 13: Former federal secretary and distinguished intellectual and columnist Dr Safdar Mahmood passed away.

Dr Safdar was best known for his scholarly book '*Pakistan Kyun Toota*' on the breaking away of East Pakistan and the making of Bangladesh. Dr Safdar was the recipient of Pride of Performance for his outstanding contributions in the field of history. He penned one dozen books reviewed by Pakistani and foreign press and are widely quoted by foreign and Pakistani authors and research scholars.

Sept. 14: Balochistan MPAs moved a no-confidence motion against Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani.

Sept. 14: Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritage, Jamshoro, signed MoUs with Toledo city of USA, to collaborate in education, art, culture, economic and social sectors.

Sept. 14: The federal cabinet rejected a proposal to give 10 percent ad hoc relief in the basic salaries of the Senate chairman and deputy chairman, National Assembly speaker and deputy speaker and members of the parliament.

Sept. 14: PMIK, during a telephone call from Russian

The World's Oldest Constitutions

Year of introduction of the oldest constitutions still in place in the world in 2021



President Vladimir Putin, stressed that close coordination and consultations between Pakistan and Russia on the evolving situation in Afghanistan are of crucial importance.

Sept. 14: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) was awarded the best Islamic stock exchange award by Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA) for the year 2021.

Sept. 14: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin announced more than 32 percent increase in the issue price of wheat from Rs1,475 to Rs1,950 per 40kg for release to mills.

Sept. 15: In an interview with CNN, PMIK strongly advocated incentivising Taliban's new government with a view to ending the current crisis and warned against trying to control Afghanistan from outside and insisted the country was on a historic crossroad.

Sept. 15: Telenor Pakistan was awarded Rs1.36 billion contract by the Universal Service Fund (USF) to provide mobile broadband 4G services in Chaghi and Nushki districts of Balochistan.

Sept. 15: The government officially awarded additional spectrum to Ufone.

Methane: What's the big deal?

With much of the climate conversation centred around cutting carbon dioxide, less attention is paid to a more potent, less common and sometimes smellier greenhouse gas: methane. There's a reason why carbon dioxide has become the bogeyman of the climate crisis, considering just how much of it we've pumped into the atmosphere. We haven't stopped at CO₂, however, we've added methane into the toxic mix. While the gas, also known as CH₄, has become almost synonymous with cattle flatulence, there's actually much more to it than that. Methane is not only the natural gas that supplies power stations and heats homes, it's also the stuff that wafts from landfills, rice paddies, the intestines of ruminants, wetlands, and in some instances, supposedly "green" hydropower reservoirs. We humans are responsible for 60% of that, with the gold medal going to farming. Partly, but not only, as a result of gassy livestock, the agricultural sector causes the same amount of warming as 788 million cars, which is more than half of the world's 1.4 billion-strong fleet. Silver goes to none other than the fossil fuel industry, with the waste sector snatching bronze.

Scientists estimate that although methane only accounts for 3% of emissions since 1750, it is linked to as much as 23% of historic warming. In other words, the stuff is potent. As in, a single ton of methane causes roughly the equivalent warming of at least 28 tons of CO₂ over the course of a century. And in the last two decades alone, we've managed to increase our output by 10%. Reducing the amount that seeps into the atmosphere could be a secret weapon in the climate fight. In fact, it could, according to a recent UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) report, avoid 0.3 degrees Celsius of warming by the 2040s.

INTERNATIONAL

Aug. 16: Malaysia's prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin resigned and his government collapsed.

Aug. 16: Zambian business tycoon and veteran opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema scored a landslide victory in the presidential elections.

Aug. 16: The Taliban declared the war in Afghanistan over after taking control of the presidential palace in Kabul.

Aug. 16: American Kevin Kisner won a record-tying six-man playoff and capture the Wyndham Championship.

Aug. 16: Ryann O'Toole captured her first LPGA title.

Aug. 16: Daniil Medvedev won the ATP Toronto Masters.

Aug. 16: The 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO wrapped in Fuzhou, capital of China's Fujian province, with a total of 34 new sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Aug. 16: Poland recalled its ambassador to Israel after the latter downgraded diplomatic ties with the former.

Aug. 17: The Taliban's co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar returned to Afghanistan following the group's takeover of the country.

Aug. 17: The Afghan Taliban vowed to respect women's rights, forgive those who resisted them and ensure a secure Afghanistan.

Aug. 18: The Facebook removed user accounts linked to the Taliban spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid.

Aug. 19: Japanese actor Sonny Chiba, who wowed the world with his martial arts skills in more than 100 films, including Kill Bill, died. He was 82.

Aug. 20: China passed a sweeping privacy law aimed at preventing businesses from collecting sensitive personal data.

Aug. 20: Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who was deputy premier in the last government, was appointed by the king as Malaysia's next prime minister.

Aug. 22: Sweden's beleaguered Social Democratic Prime Minister Stefan Lofven announced to step down in November.

Aug. 22: US country rock pioneer Don Everly, who was the surviving half of the Everly Brothers, died aged 84.

Aug. 22: Former prime minister of Afghanistan and Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said India should focus on its internal issues instead of issuing statements about the future of Afghanistan.

Aug. 22: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said Afghanistan should never again be allowed to shelter "terrorist organisations", and called for an inclusive dialogue to resolve the crisis following the Taliban takeover.

Aug. 22: Sweden's Anna Nordqvist won the Women's British Open, her third major title.

Aug. 23: India's capital New Delhi opened its first "smog tower" aimed at reducing air pollution

Aug. 23: Iran resumed fuel exports to Afghanistan, following a request from the new government of Taliban.

Aug. 23: The US imposed new sanctions on the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces of Eritrea, Filipos Woldeyohannes, over Ethiopia's deadly Tigray conflict.

Aug. 24: Japan's Emperor Naruhito declared the Tokyo Paralympics open.

Aug. 24: During her visit to Singapore, US Vice President, Kamala Harris, accused China of intimidation in disputed

Asian waters, seeking to rally regional allies.

Aug. 24: Algeria severed diplomatic relations with Morocco due to its "hostile actions".

Aug. 24: Papua New Guinea banned flights from India indefinitely.

Aug. 25: Iran's parliament approved almost all new President Ebrahim Raisi's cabinet choices, enabling him to start working in earnest with his government.

Aug. 25: The World Bank announced to suspend aid to Afghanistan.

Aug. 26: Russia fined Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp for failing to store the data of Russian users on local servers.

Aug. 26: British regulators fined a Chinese state-owned broadcaster £200,000 (\$274,000, €233,000) for failing to comply with fairness and privacy rules.

Aug. 26: The Taliban and Northern Alliance agreed to refrain from attacks against each other.

Aug. 26: At least 60 Afghans and 12 US service members were killed in explosions at the Kabul airport.

Aug. 26: Former England captain Ted Dexter, one of England's greatest-ever cricketers, died aged 86.

Aug. 27: Sirhan Sirhan, the man convicted of shooting dead Robert F. Kennedy – the younger brother of slain president John F. Kennedy – was granted parole.

Aug. 28: Scientists discovered what is believed to be the world's northernmost landmass – a yet-to-be-named island north of Greenland that could soon be swallowed up by seawaters.

Aug. 28: Iraq hosted a regional conference aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East while emphasising the Arab country's new role as a mediator. Among the attendees were archenemies Iran and Saudi Arabia, whose rivalry has often played out in Iraq and other countries, including Yemen and Lebanon.

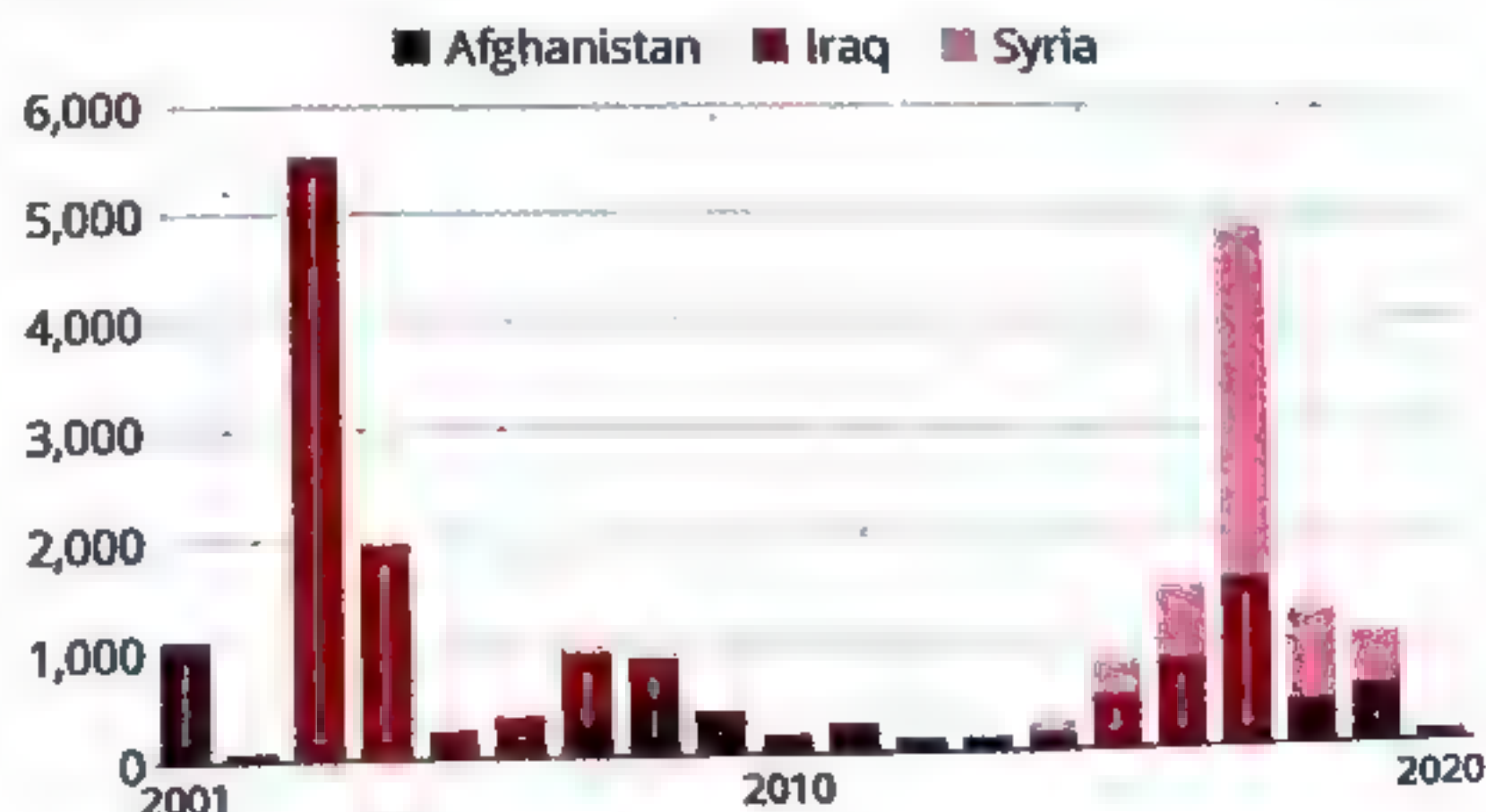
Aug. 29: Ethiopia's Yalemzerf Yehualaw set a new world record for the women's half marathon of one hour three minutes and 44 seconds, taking 18 seconds off the previous record time.

Aug. 29: Jacques Rogge, who spent 12 years as president of the International Olympic Committee, died at the age of 79.

Aug. 29: Red Bull's Max Verstappen emerged as the winner of the rain-ruined Belgian Grand Prix, the shortest race in Formula One history – all 14 kilometres of it.

U.S. Airstrikes Killed at Least 22,000 Civilians Since 9/11

Civilians killed in U.S. airstrikes in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria since 9/11/2001



Vali Nasr's book gives flashback of Kayani's prediction on Afghan war

In 2013, a former adviser to the US Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, in his book had written that 'very likely, the Taliban will win Afghanistan again, and this long, costly war will have been for naught'.

Nearly a decade after the words of adviser Vali Nasr, the world in August 2021 saw the Taliban capturing Afghanistan, much earlier than the scheduled withdrawal of U.S. troops. The official Vali Nasr, now Professor at John Hopkins University, in his book 'The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat' says that he had based his writing on the advice of Pakistan's Army Chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani to the U.S. — to negotiate the exit with Taliban.

The book mentions that General Kayani told American officials during a visit to Washington in 2010 that they would be "better off" negotiating an exit from Afghanistan with the Taliban, instead of trying to build up Afghan forces to 400,000 by 2014. The official says that "the general was sure the Afghan army would eventually collapse".

Recalling Gen. Kayani's firm response at one small meeting around a narrow table, he writes, "I cannot forget Kayani's reaction when we enthusiastically explained our plan to build up Afghan forces to 400,000 by 2014. His answer was swift and unequivocal: Don't do it. 'You will fail,' he said. 'Then you will leave and that half-trained army will break into militias that will be a problem for Pakistan.' We tried to stand our ground, but he would have none of it. He continued, 'I don't believe that the Congress is going to pay \$9 billion a year for this 400,000-man force.' He was sure it would eventually collapse and the army's broken pieces would resort to crime and terrorism to earn their keep," the official wrote. "Kayani's counsel was that if you want to leave, just leave — we didn't believe you were going to stay anyway — but don't do any more damage on your way out. This seemed to be a ubiquitous sentiment across the region. No one bought our argument for sending more troops into Afghanistan, and no one was buying our arguments for leaving. It seemed everyone was getting used to a direction-less America."

Nasr, who is of Iranian origin, said that during a visit to the White House in October 2010, General Kayani gave President Barack Obama a 13-page white paper he had written to explain his views on the outstanding strategic issues between Pakistan and the United States. He writes, "Kayani 3.0, as the paper was dubbed (it was the third one Pakistanis had given the White House on the subject), could be summarized as: You are not going to win the war, and you are not going to transform Afghanistan. This place has devoured empires before you; it will defy you as well. Stop your grandiose plans, and let's get practical, sit down, and discuss how you will leave and what an end state we can both live with."

Aug. 30: China banned written exams for six- and seven-year-olds, as part of sweeping education reforms.

Aug. 30: Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank.

Aug. 30: The two-decade-long US-led war in Afghanistan officially came to a close as the final military plane departed the international airport in Taliban-ruled Kabul.

Aug. 30: The UN Security Council adopted a resolution requiring the Taliban to honour their commitment to let people freely leave Afghanistan.

Aug. 31: President Joe Biden mounted a fierce defence of his exit from Afghanistan as the "best decision for America," the day after the US military withdrawal celebrated by the Taliban as a major victory, saying it was in the US national interest.

Aug. 31: Dale Steyn, South Africa's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, announced his retirement from all cricket.

Aug. 31: Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency over food shortages as private banks ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.

Aug. 31: Taliban took control of the Kabul airport following the withdrawal of the last US troops, marking the end of the 20-year war.

Sept. 01: In a report on the state of social protection globally, the UN's International Labour Organisation said that 4.1 billion people were living without any social safety net of any kind.

Sept. 01: Bangladesh earned their maiden Twenty20 International victory against New Zealand.

Sept. 02: Taliban spokesman for their political office in Qatar, Sohail Shaheen, said the Taliban has the right to raise voice for Muslims anywhere, including in Kashmir.

Sept. 02: Taekwondo made its Paralympic debut in Tokyo.

Sept. 02: Ireland slapped Facebook's WhatsApp messaging service with a record fine for breaching EU data privacy laws.

Sept. 02: In a World Cup qualifying match against Ireland, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo broke the men's international scoring record by scoring his 110th goal, to move ahead of former Iran striker Ali Daei.

Sept. 03: Turkey imposed a fine of 1,950,000-lira (\$235,000, €200,000) on Facebook's WhatsApp messaging service for failing to sufficiently protect user data.

Sept. 04: Indian batsman Rohit Sharma scored his first Test century outside his home country.

Sept. 04: President Joe Biden directed the Justice Department to declassify documents related to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Sept. 05: Singer Sarah Harding, whose group Girls Aloud was

Angela Merkel's long political career

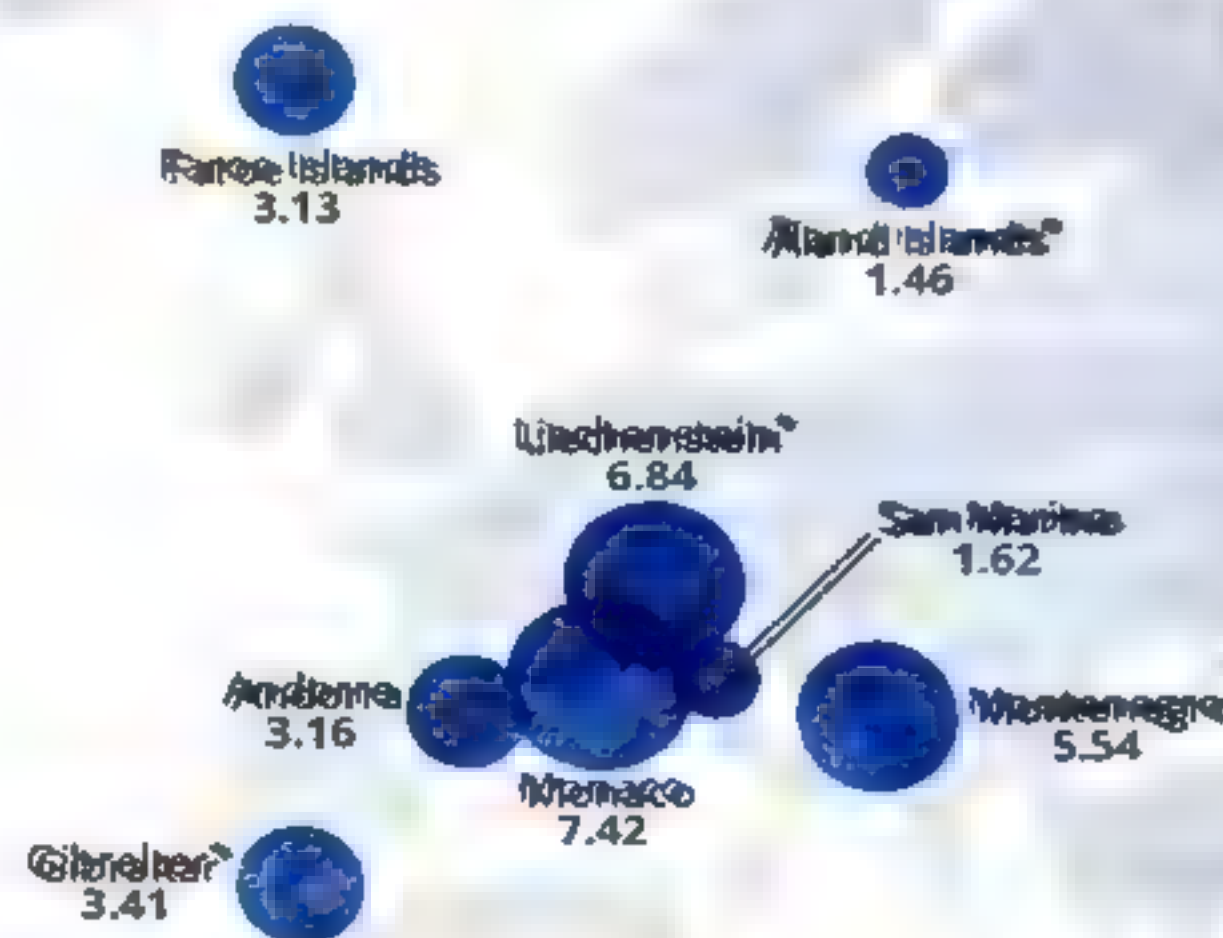


one of Britain's most successful female bands, died aged 39.
 Sept. 05: Home favourite Max Verstappen won the first Dutch Grand Prix since 1985.
 Sept. 05: A Myanmar photographer, who remained unnamed for security reasons, scooped the Visa d'Or for News, the most prestigious award handed out at the "Visa Pour L'Image" festival in Perpignan, southwestern France.
 Sept. 05: Army putschists in Guinea arrested the president and staged a coup.
 Sept. 05: Tokyo bade a colourful farewell to the Paralympics.
 Sept. 06: Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo, one of postwar French cinema's biggest stars and whose charismatic smile illuminated the screen for half a century, died aged 88.
 Sept. 06: Nasa confirmed that its Perseverance rover succeeded in collecting its first rock sample on Mars.
 Sept. 06: Taliban fighters announced the capture of the Panjshir valley, the last pocket of resistance to their rule.
 Sept. 06: John Watkins, who had been the world's oldest living Test cricketer, has died in Durban (South Africa) at the age of 98.
 Sept. 07: South Korea test-fired a homegrown submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) which is believed to be a variant of the country's Hyunmoo-2B ballistic missile, with a range of around 500-km.
 Sept. 07: The Taliban announced veteran Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund as the leader of their interim cabinet, while giving key positions to some of the movement's top officials. No woman was included in the interim set-up.
 Sept. 07: Sri Lanka hammered South Africa by 78 runs in the third one-day international to clinch the series 2-1.
 Sept. 07: El Salvador became the first country in the world to accept bitcoin as legal tender.

Sept. 07: The EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service said the average surface air temperature in June-August was close to 1.0°C above the 1991-2020 average, making it the hottest in its dataset. The previous warmest summers, 2010 and 2018, were 0.1°C cooler.
 Sept. 08: Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) postponed the 3rd Asian Youth Games for a year.
 Sept. 08: Bangladesh defeated New Zealand in the fourth Twenty20 International to seal the five-match series 3-1.
 Sept. 08: Russia's emergencies minister Yevgeny Zinichev died trying to save a filmmaker who slipped from a cliff during training exercises in the Arctic.
 Sept. 08: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said that the Chinese government was ready to maintain communication

Europe's Smallest Economies

European countries and regions by GDP in 2019 (in billion U.S. dollars)



GK Tidbits

1. Lusaka is the capital and the largest city of Zambia
2. The capital of Poland is Warsaw
3. The book "Tareekh-e-Lahore" was written by Kanhaiyya Lal
4. Ranjit Singh snatched world's most famous diamond Koh-i-Noor from Shujaul Mulk (Shah Shuja Durrani)
5. Chairman of Kashmir Premier League (KPL) is Arif Malik
6. Nato's incumbent Secretary General is Jens Stoltenberg
7. The European Union's foreign policy chief is Josep Borrell
8. Mikhail Gorbachev oversaw the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 1989
9. The creator of the popular numbers puzzle Sudoku was Maki Kaji
10. The current Director General of Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is Rafael Mariano Grossi
11. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, also known simply as

- the Montreal Protocol, was signed in 1987
12. The United Nations' World Humanitarian Day is marked on Aug. 19
13. The youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider to date is Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed
14. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed was born on February 17, 1951
15. Rashid Minhas's instructor who tried to hijack his training jet T-33 towards India was Flight Lieutenant Mati-ur-Rahman
16. Phnom Penh is the capital of Cambodia
17. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is based in Jeddah
18. Gurdwara Punja Sahib is located in Hassanabdal
19. The Uchaw festival is celebrated in all three valleys of Kalash tribe
20. Unesco listed Kalash culture as "Intangible Cultural Heritage" in November 2018
21. The Collective Security Treaty Organization, an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia, is headquartered in Moscow
22. Member states of the Collective Security

- Treaty Organization are Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan
23. International Paralympic Committee president is Andrew Parsons
24. The National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) is located in Islamabad
25. The river Euphrates runs for almost 2,800 kilometres (1,700 miles) across Turkey, Syria and Iraq
26. The current chief of the UN's International Labour Organisation is Guy Ryder
27. The current Commander Pakistan Fleet is Rear Admiral Naveed Ashraf
28. The first chief minister of Balochistan was Sardar Attaullah Mengal
29. WhatsApp messaging service is owned by Facebook
30. Cristiano Ronaldo is a footballer from Portugal
31. The Terracotta Warriors, an army of statues protecting a royal tomb, are buried near Xian (China).
32. Topkapi Palace is one of the most famous sites

with new government and leaders in Afghanistan.

Sept. 08: Zebulon Simentov, Afghanistan's last Jew who lived in a dilapidated synagogue in Kabul, left the country.

Sept. 08: The last surviving assailant of the November 2015 attacks in Paris appeared in court at the start of a historic trial over the night of horror that sent shockwaves through France.

Sept. 08: A statue of a Confederate general, General Robert E. Lee was removed in Richmond, the Virginia city.

Sept. 09: Chinese authorities ordered gaming giants Tencent and NetEase to cut content that is breeding "effeminacy".

Sept. 09: President Emmanuel Macron offered an emotional farewell to Jean-Paul Belmondo who helped define French identity for six decades.

Sept. 09: The US Navy's Fifth Fleet launched a new task force in the Gulf, incorporating drones and artificial intelligence.

Sept. 09: The IOC punished North Korea's Tokyo Games no-show by suspending their National Olympic Committee until the end of 2022.

Sept. 09: Morocco's long-ruling Islamists suffered a crushing defeat in parliamentary elections.

Sept. 09: Leaders of the five-nation BRICS club (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) called for settling the situation in Afghanistan through peaceful means.

Sept. 09: Ford Motor Co. announced to stop making cars in India, becoming the latest automaker to leave the major growth market dominated by Asian rivals.

Sept. 10: Lionel Messi scored a hatrick to overtake Pele as the top international goal-scorer in South American history.

The Best Universities in the World

Highest scores given in the 'World University Rankings 2022' (100=best)



	University of Oxford	95.7
	California Institute of Technology	95.0
	Harvard University	95.0
	Stanford University	94.9
	University of Cambridge	94.6
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	94.6
	Princeton University	93.6
	University of California, Berkeley	92.2

Sept. 10: Russia completed the construction of Nord Stream 2, a subsea pipeline to Germany.

Sept. 10: The African Union suspended Guinea after a coup in the West African country.

Sept. 10: Russia and Belarus kick-started joint military drills Zapad-2021.

Sept. 10: Denmark became the only European nation with no Covid curbs.

Sept. 10: Legislators from around the world met in Vienna, Austria for the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

GK Tidbits

In: Istanbul

33. Topkapi Palace was built in: 15th century

34. Hadrian's Wall, which extends across northern England, was built on the order of the Roman Emperor Hadrian in: 122 CE

35. The world's most famous leaning tower is found in Pisa, a city in: Italy

36. The Brandenburg Gate is one of the old city gates of: Berlin (Germany)

37. The Temple of the Tooth, which holds a sacred relic that is said to be the tooth of Buddha, is in: Sri Lanka

38. Stonehenge is an ancient structure located on Salisbury Plain of: England

39. The Bastille, a medieval fortress that once served as a prison, is in: Paris

40. The name of the Martian rock sample that Perseverance rover has collected is: Rochette

41. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is marked on: Sept. 7

42. Pyongyang is the capital of: North Korea

43. Benito Mussolini, one of Europe's first dictators of the 20 century, belonged to a family of:

Blacksmiths

44. One of the largest accident oil spills in history has been in the Gulf of Mexico in: 2010

45. Lake Hillier is located in the Middle Island off of the coast of: Western Australia

46. Lake Hillier is known for its colour which is: Pink

47. Lake Hillier's pink hue is created by bacteria known as: Halobacteria

48. The founder of the Disney Brothers Studios, Walter Elias Disney was born in: 1901

49. Mickey Mouse is a cartoon character created in 1928 by Walter Disney and: Ub Iwerks

50. The Great Purge was a political campaign carried out by: Joseph Stalin

51. The result of The Great Purge was the death of at least 750,000 people between 1936 and: 1938

52. The scientist most famously known for having discovered the laws of gravity, motion and as the inventor of calculus is: Sir Isaac Newton

53. The Paladin Group was a far-right organisation that was founded in: 1970

54. The Paladin Group was founded by: Otto

Skorzeny

55. The great inventor who created the Alternating Current system is: Nikola Tesla

56. A vicious propaganda campaign against Tesla was launched by: Thomas Edison

57. Three astronauts — Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee — lost their lives in: Apollo 1 tragedy

58. The first Thanksgiving Day occurred in: 1637

59. The Industrial Revolution began in: Britain

60. In literature, Syed Zahoor Shah Hashomi was a dynamic and an indomitable figure of: Balochi language

61. The large-scale cooling of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, occurring every two to seven years, is known as: La Nina

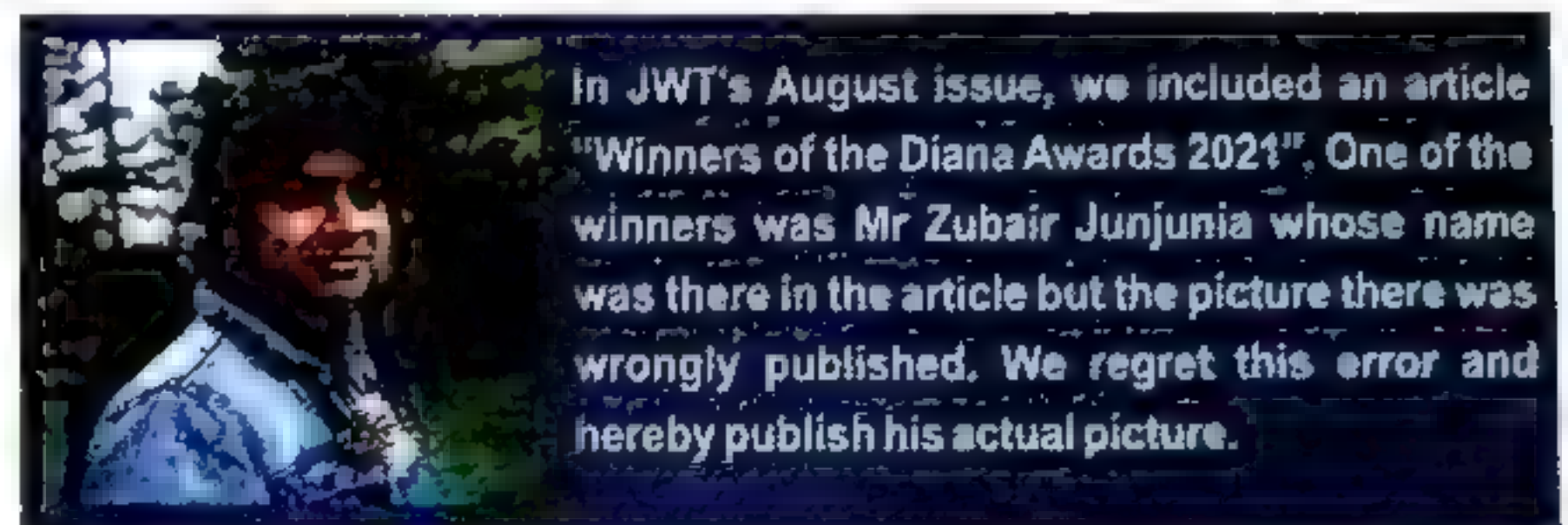
62. The site of the World Trade Center which was destroyed on 11 September 2001, is now known as: Ground Zero

63. Europe's largest supplier of natural gas is: Gazprom

64. The World First Aid Day is observed on:

Sept. 10: US President Joe Biden and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping talked for the first time in seven months.
 Sept. 10: A Lebanese government was formed under Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati, ending a 13-month impasse.
 Sept. 11: Libyan parliament speaker Aguila Saleh ratified a law governing the country's upcoming presidential election.
 Sept. 11: Veteran Indian sports administrator Raja Randhir Singh took over as head of the Olympic Council of Asia.
 Sept. 11: It emerged that the United States has removed its most advanced missile defence system and Patriot batteries from Saudi Arabia, even as the kingdom faced continued air attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels.
 Sept. 11: Morocco's King Mohammed VI named businessman Aziz Akhannouch to lead a new government.
 Sept. 12: Penelope Cruz took home the best actress award at the Venice Film Festival, for her role in "Parallel Mothers".
 Sept. 12: Philippines actor John Arcilla was the surprise choice for the best acting award at the Venice Film Festival.
 Sept. 12: Iran and the UN atomic agency announced the IAEA will keep up surveillance of Tehran's nuclear activities.
 Sept. 12: Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi became the first foreign leader to visit and meet with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi since he took office in August.
 Sept. 12: Britain's Emma Raducanu completed a Grand Slam by becoming the US Open champion.
 Sept. 12: McLaren's D. Ricciardo won the Italian Grand Prix.
 Sept. 12: Daniil Medvedev foiled Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam bid with a straight sets victory in the US Open final.
 Sept. 12: Australia's Samantha Stosur and China's Zhang Shuai won the US Open women's doubles title.
 Sept. 14: Emily Claire Hari, a transgender woman, who led a militia called The White Rabbits, was sentenced to 53 years in prison for bombing a Minnesota mosque in 2017.
 Sept. 14: The painter Charlotte Johnson Wahl, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's mother, died at the age of 79.
 Sept. 14: Russia fined Facebook and Twitter 21 million rubles and five million rubles, respectively.

Sept. 14: South Africa defeated Sri Lanka in the third Twenty20 international to sweep the series.
 Sept. 14: Double Olympic champion Yuriy Sedykh, whose world record for the hammer still stands, died at the age of 66.
 Sept. 15: US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison announced to form a new trilateral partnership, AUKUS, a major step toward countering China.
 Sept. 15: South Korea successfully test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile, becoming only the seventh country in the world with the advanced technology.
 Sept. 15: Iran demoted its chief nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araghchi, and replaced him with Ali Bagheri, a protege of ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi.
 Sept. 15: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson appointed a new-look cabinet to revamp his Brexiteer government. Dominic Raab was moved to the lesser role of Justice Secretary but will retain the title of Deputy Prime Minister. He was replaced by International Trade Secretary Liz Truss, who has brokered a series of deals since Britain's full exit from the European Union in January. She became only the second female foreign secretary in British history.
 Sept. 15: The UN announced to withdraw Gabon's 450-strong peacekeeping contingent from the Central African Republic over sexual abuse.



In JWT's August issue, we included an article "Winners of the Diana Awards 2021". One of the winners was Mr Zubair Junjuna whose name was there in the article but the picture there was wrongly published. We regret this error and hereby publish his actual picture.

GK Tidbits

Second Saturday of September

65. World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on: **September 10**
66. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on: **September 12**
67. Prince Sultan Air Base is in: **Saudi Arabia**
68. The chief of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation is: **Mohammed Eslami**
69. Major Raja Aziz Bhatti embraced martyrdom on: **September 12, 1965**
70. Major Raja Aziz Bhatti was born in 1928 in: **Hong Kong**
71. Major Raja Aziz Bhatti was commissioned to the Punjab Regiment in: **1950**
72. Famous for elegant shops and cafes, Champs Elysees is a major avenue in: **Paris**
73. The most important crop of "Rabi" season is: **Wheat**
74. Lal Sohanra National Park is located in: **Bahawalpur**
75. The first President of Pakistan was: **Iskander Mirza**
76. Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS)

- University of Art, Design and Heritages is in: **Jamshoro**
77. International Day of Democracy is observed on: **September 15**
78. The total number of Unesco's biosphere reserves is: **727**
79. The number of countries in which Unesco's biosphere reserves are located is: **131**
80. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is headquartered in: **Montreal, Quebec, Canada**
81. Temple of Loh is located in: **Lahore Fort**
82. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas was awarded Nishan-i-Haider on: **Aug 29, 1971**
83. When frogs are born, they are called: **Tadpoles**
84. The bird that lives in Antarctica and cannot fly is: **Penguin**
85. The number of legs a lobster has is: **10**
86. The sport in which "Australian Open" is a Grand Slam tournament is: **Tennis**
87. Montevideo is the capital and the largest city of: **Uruguay**
88. Niagara Falls is located in United States and:

- Canada**
89. The Arab country whose flag has a green cedar tree in the centre is: **Lebanon**
90. The Hunua Ranges located in: **New Zealand**
91. The capital of Senegal is: **Dakar**
92. Hamilton is the capital city of: **Bermuda**
93. The capital of Mauritius is: **Port Louis**
94. The tallest mountain in Canada is: **Mount Logan**
95. The official language of Mozambique is: **Portuguese**
96. The large river that flows through London is: **The Thames**
97. The desert that covers much of northern Africa is: **The Sahara**
98. The national animal of Canada is: **Beaver**
99. The mollusc that holds a pearl in its shell is: **Oyster**
100. In the human body, the hallux is: **Big toe**

MCQs / NATIONAL

1. Dr Jameel Jalibi was a shining star of the literature of _____ language.
(a) Urdu (b) Sindhi
(c) Balochi (d) Punjabi
2. On Aug. 16, Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the first phase of Single National Curriculum for students from grades _____.
(a) 1-3 (b) 1-5
(c) 1-8 (d) 1-12
3. On _____, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar was administered the oath of the office as a judge of the Supreme Court.
(a) Aug. 14 (b) Aug. 15
(c) Aug. 16 (d) Aug. 17
4. On Aug. 17, Rawalakot Hawks won the inaugural Kashmir Premier League title by defeating _____ in the final.
(a) Bagh Stallions (b) Mirpur Royals
(c) Kotli Lions (d) Muzaffarabad Tigers
5. On Aug. 17, Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry was elected as the _____ president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).
(a) 28th (b) 29th
(c) 30th (d) 31st
6. Pakistan has been ranked _____ among the 193 countries surveyed in the 2020 UN E-Government Development Index report.
(a) 147th (b) 153rd
(c) 159th (d) 163rd
7. The incumbent Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court is _____.
(a) Justice Babar Sattar
(b) Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani
(c) Justice Athar Minallah
(d) Justice Aamer Farooq
8. On Aug. 20, _____ was appointed the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
(a) Nabeel Munir (b) Sabir Ahmed
(c) Raza Bashir (d) Asim Iftikhar
9. On Aug. 20, former Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez was appointed Pakistan's High Commissioner to _____.
(a) Australia (b) United Kingdom
(c) India (d) Canada
10. On Aug. 22, Pakistan's 15-year-old Imaad Ali became the world Youth Scrabble Champion for the second time, becoming the _____ in the world to have done so.
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Third (d) Fourth
11. On _____, Pakistan conducted a successful test-flight of indigenously-developed Fatah-1 (Guided Multi Launch Rocket System), capable of delivering conventional warhead.
(a) Aug. 22 (b) Aug. 23
(c) Aug. 24 (d) Aug. 25
13. On Aug. 24, Lt Gen (retd) Muzammil Hussain was appointed the chairman of Water and Power Development Authority for a second consecutive term of _____ years.
(a) Three (b) Four
(c) Five (d) Seven
13. On Aug. 24, the government appointed _____ the Chairman of Federal Board of Revenue.
(a) Sultan Khan (b) Asim Ahmed
(c) Kamran Ali (d) Ashfaq Ahmed
14. The Joint Military Exercise "Dostarym III" has been held between the armies of Pakistan and _____.
(a) Tajikistan (b) Kazakhstan
(c) Azerbaijan (d) Turkey
15. On Aug. 25, Pakistan's first 'Smart Forest' was inaugurated in the Rakh Jhok area of _____.
(a) Jhelum (b) Rawalpindi
(c) Sheikhupura (d) Chakwal
16. Renowned educationist, feminist and human rights activist, Rubina Saigol, passed away on _____.
(a) Aug. 24 (b) Aug. 25
(c) Aug. 26 (d) Aug. 27
17. On Aug. 27, the district administration _____ set a new record of planting 100,000 saplings in one go.
(a) Faisalabad (b) Lahore
(c) Peshawar (d) Gujranwala
18. COAS Gen Bajwa briefed a delegation comprising members of Parliamentary Kashmir Committee and Defence Committees of the Senate and National Assembly at GHQ on _____.
(a) Aug. 29 (b) Aug. 30
(c) Aug. 31 (d) Sept. 01
19. On Aug. 30, first time in the history of Malakand division, a Women Police Station was setup in _____ district to resolve issues of women on priority basis.
(a) Lower Dir (b) Buner
(c) Swat (d) Bajaur
20. On Aug. 31, a consortium of four Pakistani oil companies was awarded exploration rights for Offshore Block-5 in _____.
(a) Qatar (b) Saudi Arabia
(c) Kuwait (d) UAE
21. Dr Mohammad Amjad Saqib, one of the winners of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent to the Nobel Prize, is the head of _____.
(a) Akhuwat (b) Aman
(c) Al-Khair Trust (d) Darul Sukun
22. Veteran Hurriyat Leader Syed Ali Geelani passed away at the age of 92 years on _____.
(a) Aug. 30 (b) Aug. 31
(c) Sept. 01 (d) Sept. 02
23. The 660kV High-Voltage Direct Current Matiari-Lahore transmission line, the first CPEC project in the power evacuation and transmission sector, started commercial operations on _____.
(a) Aug. 31 (b) Sept. 01
(c) Sept. 02 (d) Sept. 03
24. Veteran politician and the first chief minister of Balochistan, Sardar Attaullah Mengal, died on _____.
(a) Aug. 30 (b) Aug. 31
(c) Sept. 01 (d) Sept. 02
25. Pakistan Squash Federation is headquartered in _____.
(a) Islamabad (b) Karachi
(c) Peshawar (d) Lahore
26. The sport in which Pakistani Athlete Haider Ali won a gold medal - his country's first - at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games was _____.
(a) Taekwondo (b) Discus throw
(c) Archery (d) Swimming
27. On Sept. 04, Pakistan's Inam Butt won the Beach Wrestling World Series which was held in Rome, the capital of _____.
(a) Sweden (b) Austria
(c) Italy (d) Netherlands
28. On Sept. 06, former federal finance secretary, Dr Kamran Ali Afzal, was

appointed the new chief secretary of

- (a) Sindh (b) Balochistan
(c) KP (d) Punjab

29. On Sept. 07, _____ was appointed the Pak Army's Chief of the General Staff.

- (a) Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza
(b) Lt. Gen Azhar Abbas
(c) Lt. Gen Waseem Ashraf
(d) Lt. Gen M. Chiragh Haider

30. On Sept. 07, _____ was named as the Chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference to fill the seat that fell vacant due to the sad demise of Syed Ali Geelani.

- (a) Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai
(b) Masarat Alam Bhat
(c) Yasin Malik (d) Mishal Malik

31. The cargo ship that stuck off at Karachi beach for 48 days was named _____

- (a) Thalassa (b) COSCO
(c) Hang Tong 77 (d) Hapag-Lloyd

32. One of the legends of the golden era of Pakistani film music, Wazir Afzal, passed away on _____

- (a) Sept. 04 (b) Sept. 05
(c) Sept. 06 (d) Sept. 07

33. On Sept. 08, the first-ever EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises was launched in _____

- (a) Islamabad (b) Brussels
(c) Karachi (d) Rome

34. On Sept. 11, Director-General ISI, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, hosted intelligence chiefs of regional countries - Russia, Iran, China, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and _____ in Islamabad.

- (a) Tajikistan (b) Uzbekistan
(c) Azerbaijan (d) Kyrgyzstan

35. In the cantonment board elections, which were held across Pakistan on September 12, the party that bagged most seats was _____

- (a) PML-N (b) PPP
(c) PTI (d) JUI-F

36. On Sept. 13, former Australian batsman Matthew Hayden and former pacer Vernon Philander were appointed Pakistan coaches for T20 World Cup in UAE.

- (a) English (b) New Zealander

(c) West Indian (d) South African

37. Former federal secretary and distinguished intellectual and columnist Dr Safdar Mahmood passed away on _____

- (a) Sept. 13 (b) Sept. 14
(c) Sept. 15 (d) Sept. 16

38. President Arif Alvi addressed the joint sitting of the two Houses of parliament, which also marked the beginning of the fourth parliamentary year of the sitting National Assembly, on _____

- (a) Sept. 12 (b) Sept. 13
(c) Sept. 14 (d) Sept. 15

39. The famous book on the breaking away of East Pakistan and the making of Bangladesh "Pakistan Kyun Toota" was written by _____

- (a) Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri
(b) Lt Gen Ihsan Ul Haq
(c) Dr Jameel Jalibi
(d) Dr Safdar Mahmood

40. On Sept. 14, _____ Stock Exchange was awarded the best Islamic stock exchange award by Global Islamic Finance Awards for 2021.

- (a) Lahore (b) Karachi
(c) Pakistan (d) Islamabad

INTERNATIONAL

1. On _____, the Taliban declared the war in Afghanistan over after taking over the presidential palace in Kabul.

- (a) Aug. 14 (b) Aug. 15
(c) Aug. 16 (d) Aug. 16

2. On Aug. 16, the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO was held in Fuzhou, capital of _____ Fujian province.

- (a) Japan's (b) Vietnam's
(c) China's (d) Cambodia's

3. The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has inscribed _____ new sites on the World Heritage List.

- (a) 30 (b) 34
(c) 38 (d) 51

4. On Aug. 19, _____ actor Sonny Chiba, who wowed the world with his martial arts skills in more than 100 films, died.

- (a) Japanese (b) Chinese
(c) American (d) Thai

5. On Aug. 20, Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who was deputy premier in the last government, was appointed _____ prime minister.

- (a) Myanmar's (b) Indonesia's
(c) Maldives (d) Malaysia's

6. On Aug. 22, _____ beleaguered Prime Minister Stefan Lofven announced to step down in Nov.

- (a) Estonia's (b) Denmark's
(c) Sweden's (d) Spain's

7. On Aug. 23, India's city of New Delhi opened its first "smog tower" aimed at reducing air pollution.

- (a) Bengaluru (b) New Delhi
(c) Kolkata (d) Mumbai

8. On Aug. 23, _____ resumed fuel exports to Afghanistan, following a request from the new Taliban government.

- (a) Iran (b) Russia
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) Qatar

9. On Aug. 23, the US imposed new sanctions on Filipos Woldeyohannes, the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces of _____

- (a) Ethiopia (b) Chad
(c) Gambia (d) Eritrea

10. The Tigray conflict, an ongoing civil war, is in _____

- (a) Eritrea (b) Somalia
(c) Ethiopia (d) Kenya

11. On Aug. 24, _____ severed diplomatic relations with Morocco due to its "hostile actions".

- (a) Oman (b) Algeria
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) UAE

12. On Aug. 24, _____ banned flights from India indefinitely.

- (a) Papua New Guinea
(b) Egypt
(c) Morocco (d) Sweden

13. On Aug. 25, the World Bank announced to suspend aid to _____

- (a) Kenya (b) Ethiopia
(c) Eritrea (d) Afghanistan

14. On Aug. 26, former _____ captain Ted Dexter, one of his country's greatest-ever cricketers, died.

- (a) Australia (b) South Africa
(c) England (d) West Indies

15. On Aug. 28, _____ hosted a regional conference aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East.

- (a) Bahrain (b) Iraq
(c) Oman (d) Kuwait

16. On Aug. 29, _____ Yalemzerf Yehualaw set a new world record for the women's half marathon of one hour three minutes and 44 seconds.

- (a) Ethiopia's (b) Kenya's
(c) Bulgaria's (d) Chad's

17. On Aug. 29, Jacques Rogge, who served as the president of the International Olympic Committee from 2001 to _____, died.

- (a) 2004 (b) 2008
(c) 2012 (d) 2013

18. On Aug. 30, _____ banned written exams for six- and seven-year-olds, as part of sweeping education reforms.

- (a) Finland (b) Switzerland
(c) China (d) Japan

19. Benny Gantz is the current Defence Minister of _____.

- (a) France (b) Israel
(c) Germany (d) UK

20. Max Verstappen, who has won the Belgian Grand Prix 2021, drives for _____.

- (a) Red Bull (b) Honda
(c) Toyota (d) Ferrari

21. On _____, the last military plane departed the Hamid Karzai international airport in Taliban-ruled Kabul, marking the official end of the two-decade-long US-led war in Afghanistan.

- (a) Aug. 26 (b) Aug. 27
(c) Aug. 29 (d) Aug. 30

22. On Aug. 31, Dale Steyn, _____ all-time leading Test wicket-taker, announced his retirement from all cricket.

- (a) Australia (b) England
(c) South Africa's (d) New Zealand

23. On Aug. 31, _____ declared a state of emergency over food shortages as private banks ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.

- (a) Haiti (b) Sri Lanka
(c) Afghanistan (d) Yemen

24. The headquarters of the UN's International Labour Organisation is located in _____.

- (a) Geneva (b) Paris
(c) Addis Ababa (d) Tokyo

25. On Sept. 01, _____ earned their maiden Twenty20 International victory against New Zealand.

- (a) Australia (b) Ireland
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Bangladesh

26. Taliban's spokesman for their political office in Qatar is _____.

- (a) Zabiullah Mujahid
(b) Naeem Wardak
(c) Sohail Shaheen
(d) Muhammad Hanif

27. On Sept. 02, Cristiano Ronaldo broke the men's international scoring record, which was held by Ali Daei of _____, by scoring his 110th goal.

- (a) Morocco (b) Iran
(c) England (d) Egypt

28. The Turkish lira was introduced in _____ during the Ottoman reign.

- (a) 1844 (b) 1850
(c) 1856 (d) 1864

29. On Sept. 05, Sarah Harding, a member of a popular _____ music group Girls Aloud, died.

- (a) German (b) American
(c) Australian (d) British

30. On Sept. 05, Visa d'Or for News was awarded to a photographer from _____, who remained unnamed for security reasons.

- (a) Afghanistan (b) Yemen
(c) Myanmar (d) Syria

31. On Sept. 05, army putschists in _____ arrested the country's president Alpha Conde and staged a coup.

- (a) Iraq (b) Guinea
(c) Ghana (d) South Sudan

32. On Sept. 06, Nasa confirmed that its _____ rover succeeded in collecting its first rock sample on Mars.

- (a) Perseverance (b) Curiosity
(c) Dusty (d) Opportunity

33. On Sept. 06, _____ John Watkins, who had been the world's oldest living Test cricketer, died.

- (a) England's (b) West Indies's
(c) New Zealand's (d) South Africa's

34. On Sept. 07, _____ became the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as legal tender.

- (a) Austria (b) Japan
(c) El Salvador (d) Latvia

35. On Sept. 08, Zebulon Simentov,

_____ last Jew who lived in a dilapidated synagogue, left the country.

- (a) Pakistan's (b) Afghanistan's
(c) Iran's (d) India's

36. On Sept. 09, the IOC punished _____ Tokyo Games no-show by suspending their National Olympic Committee until the end of 2022.

- (a) North Korea's (b) Russia's
(c) Iraq's (d) Belarus's

37. On Sept. 10, Russia completed the construction of Nord Stream 2, a subsea pipeline to _____.

- (a) France (b) Italy
(c) Norway (d) Germany

38. On Sept. 10, _____ became the only European nation with no Covid curbs.

- (a) Norway (b) Sweden
(c) Denmark (d) Poland

39. The First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, was held in _____.

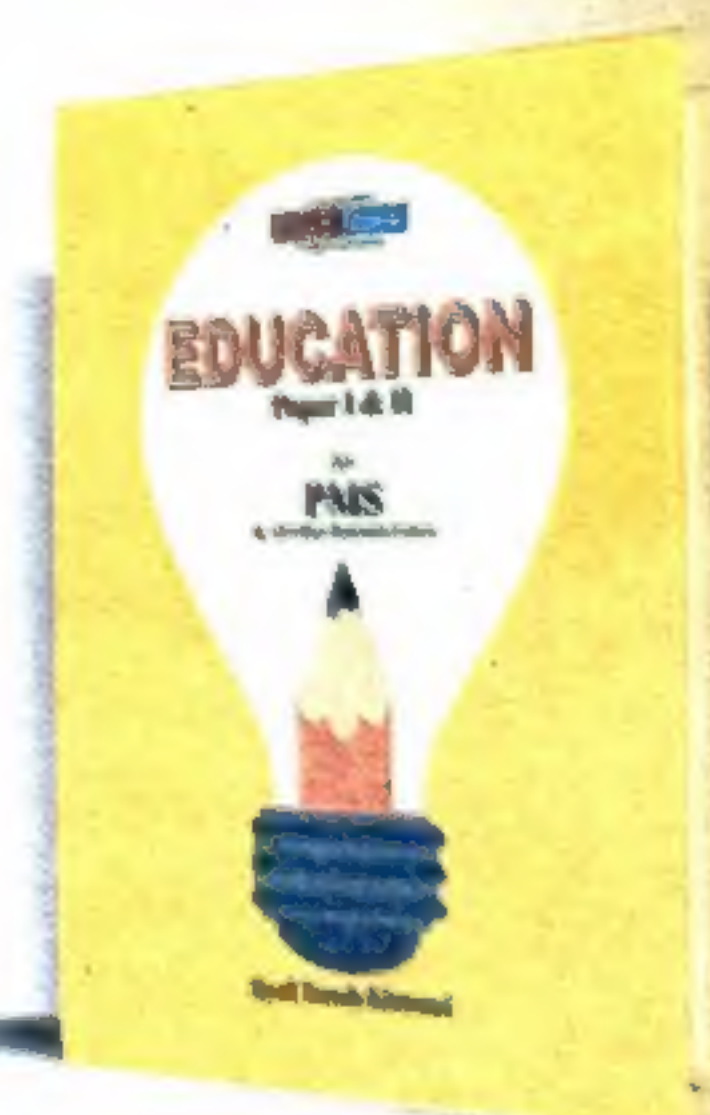
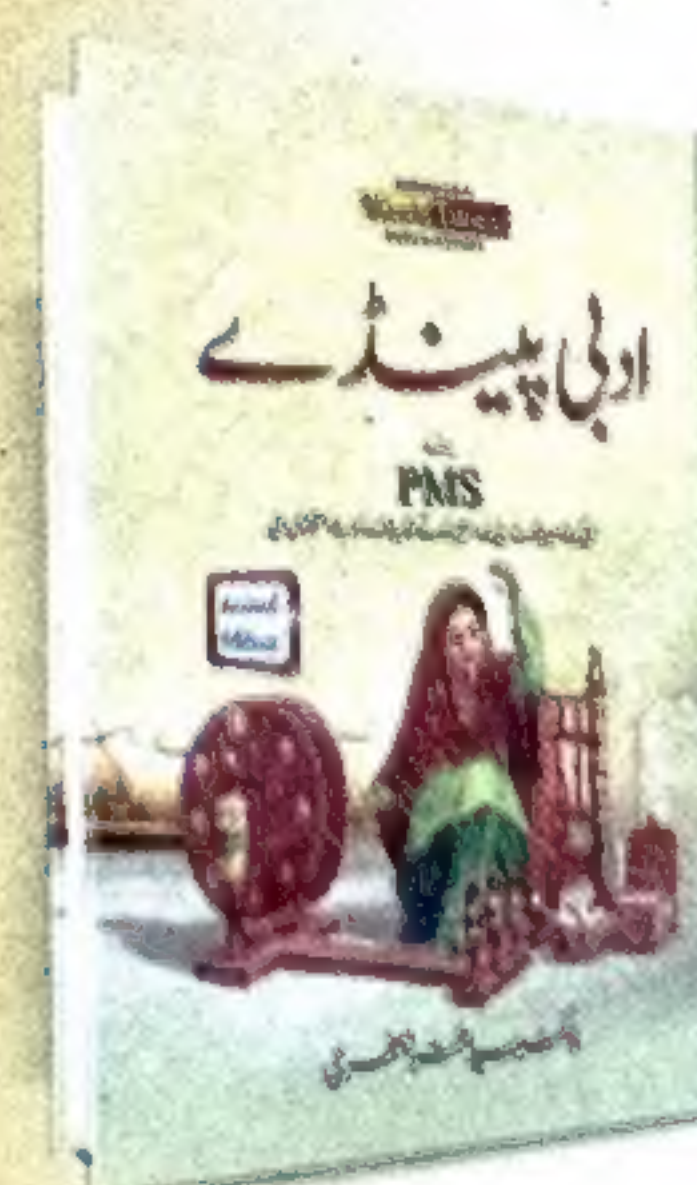
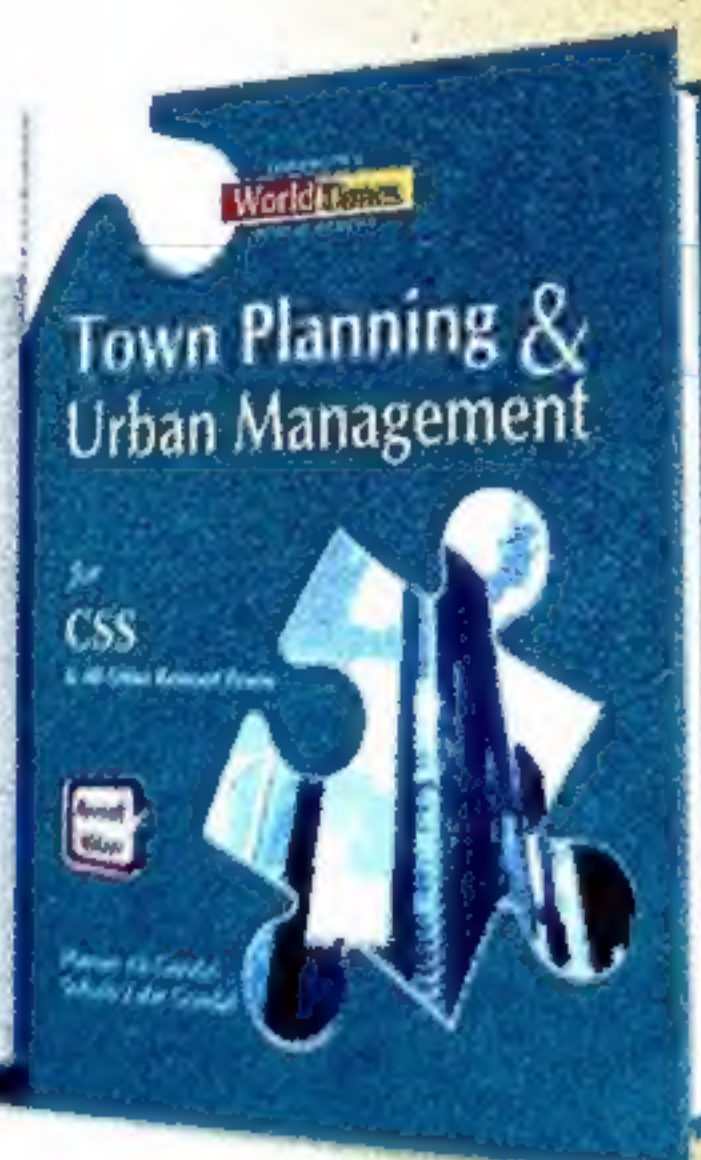
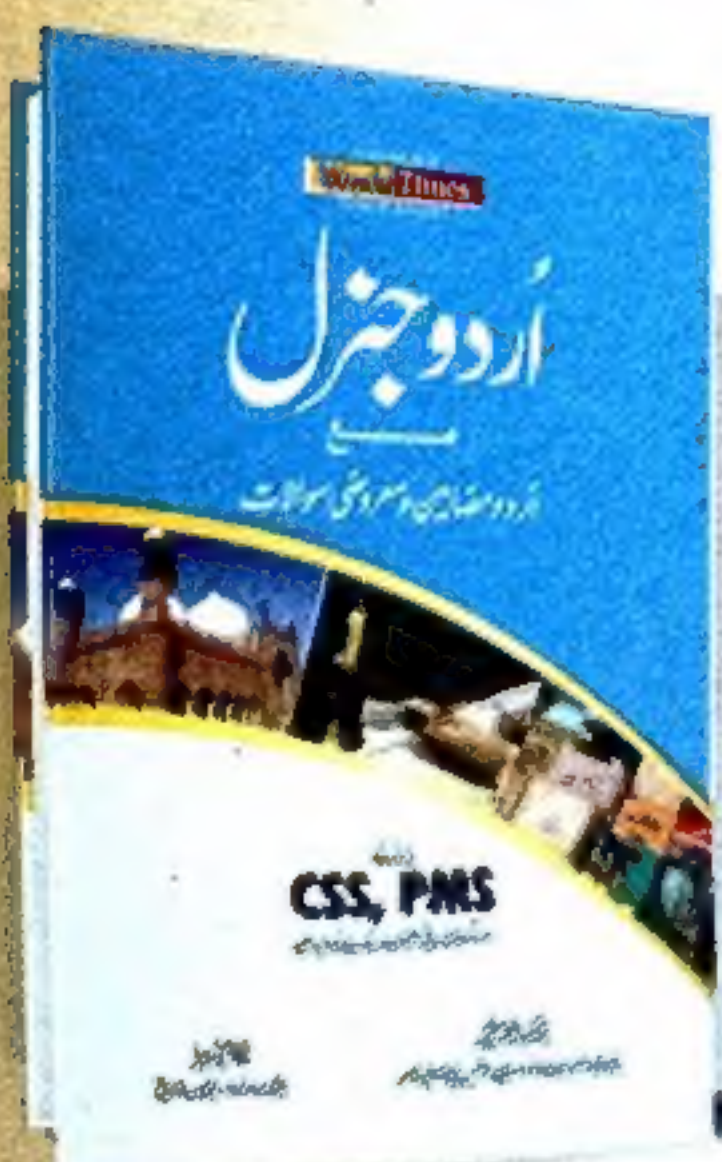
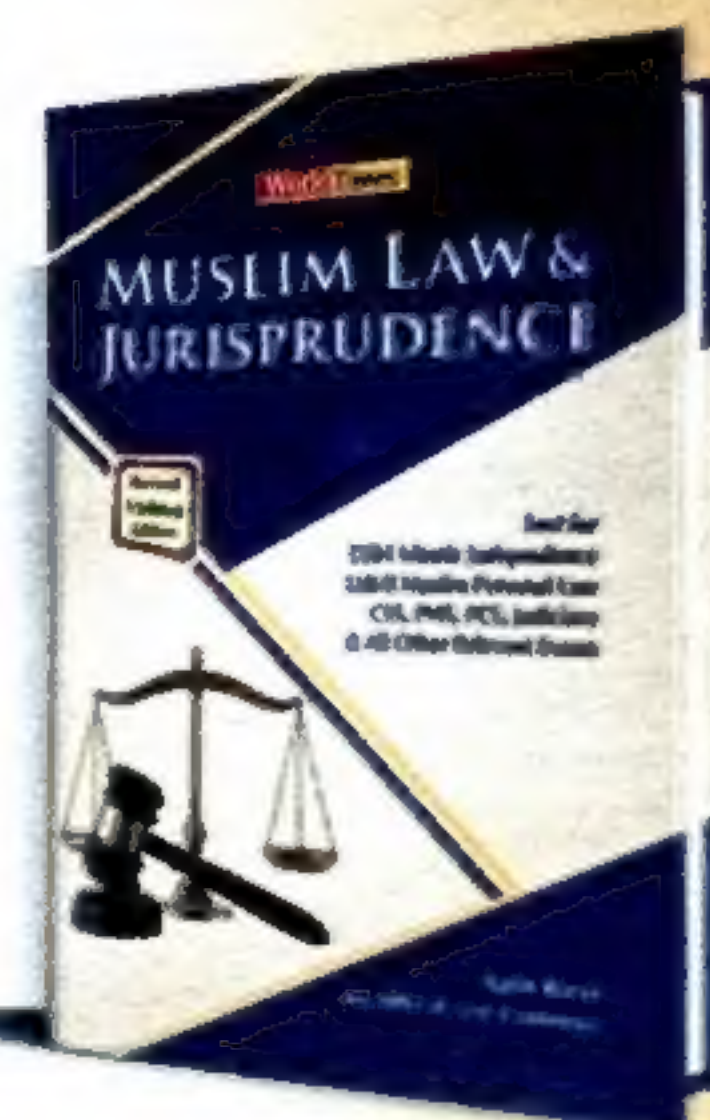
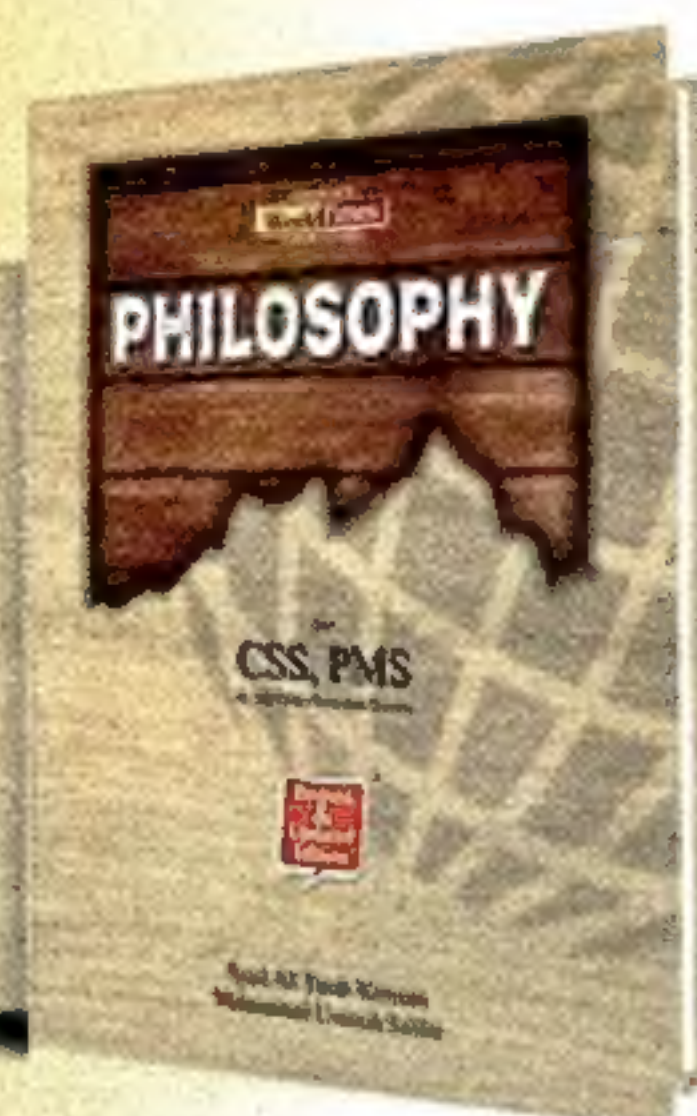
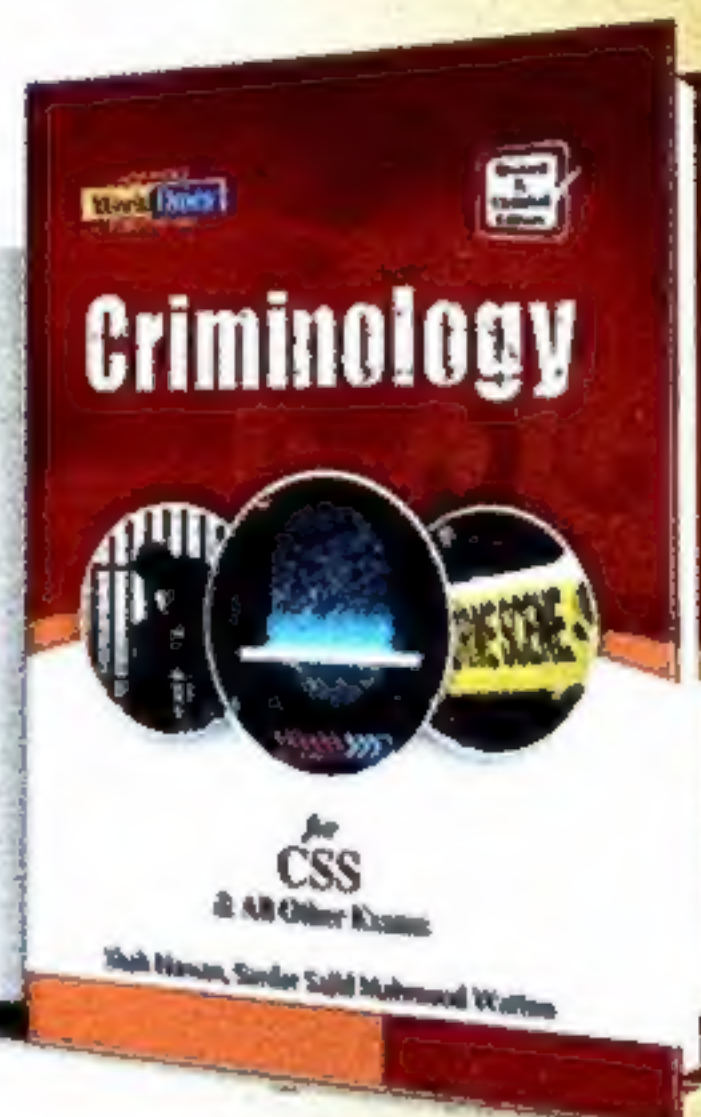
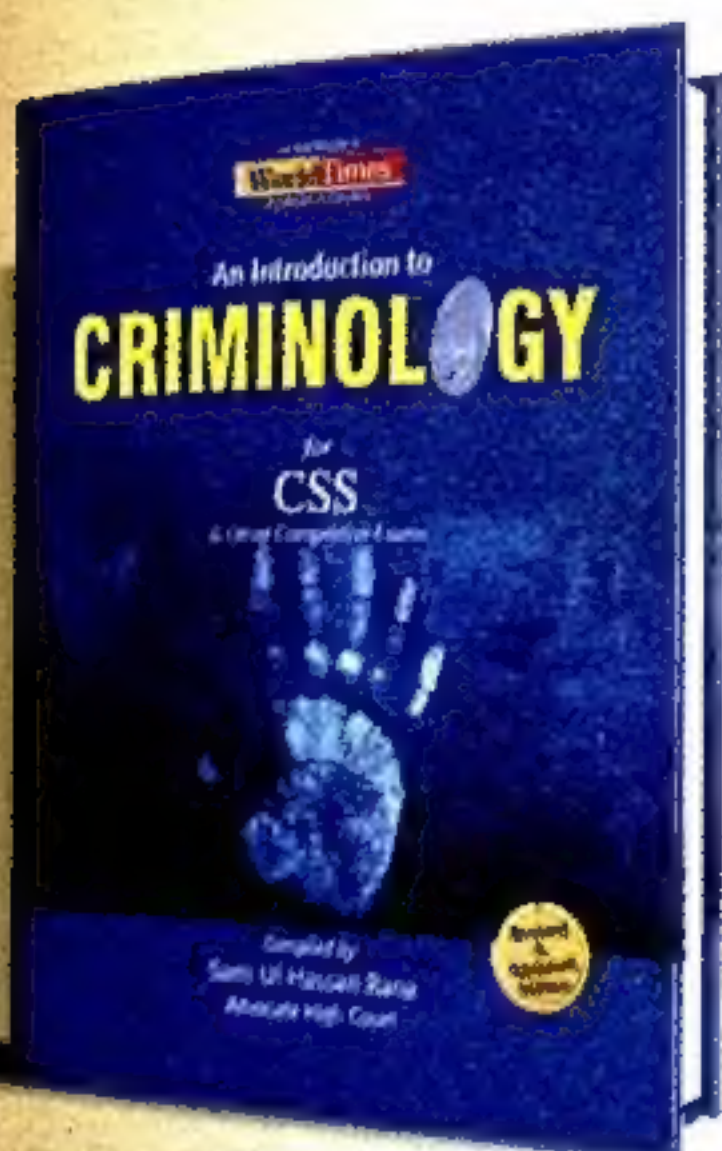
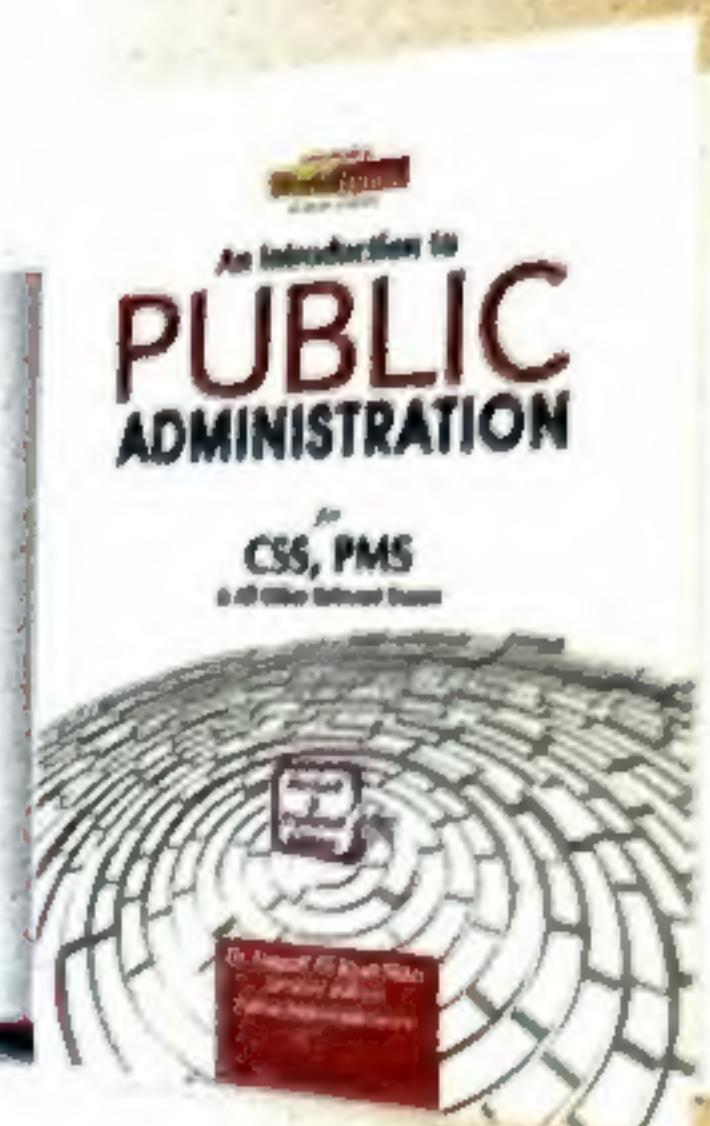
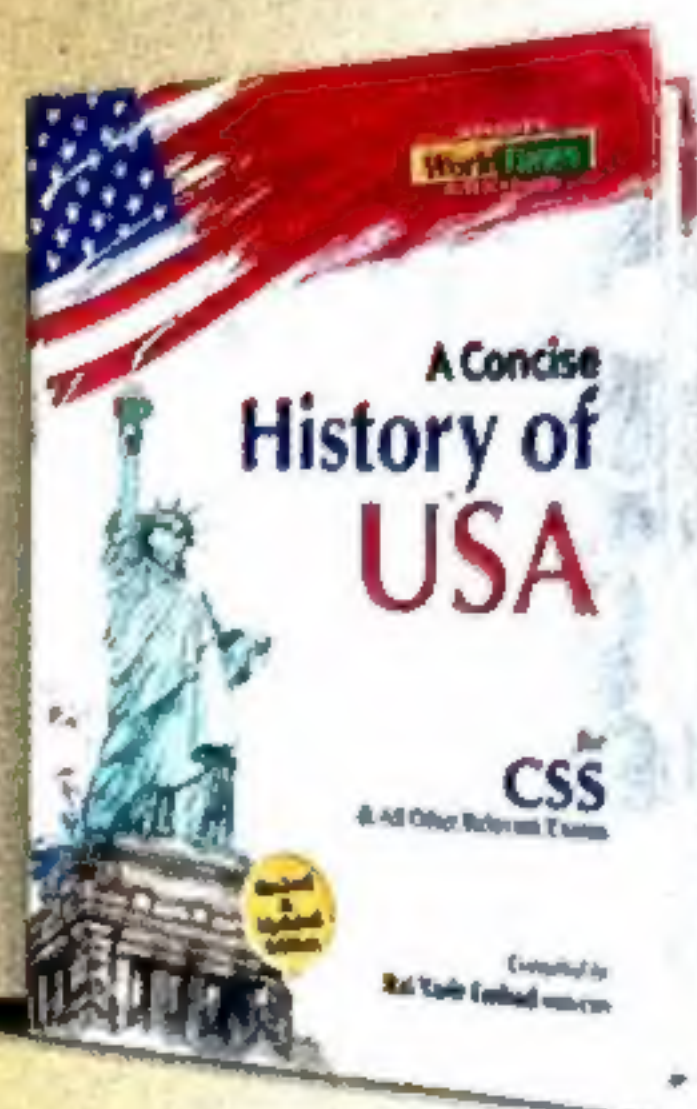
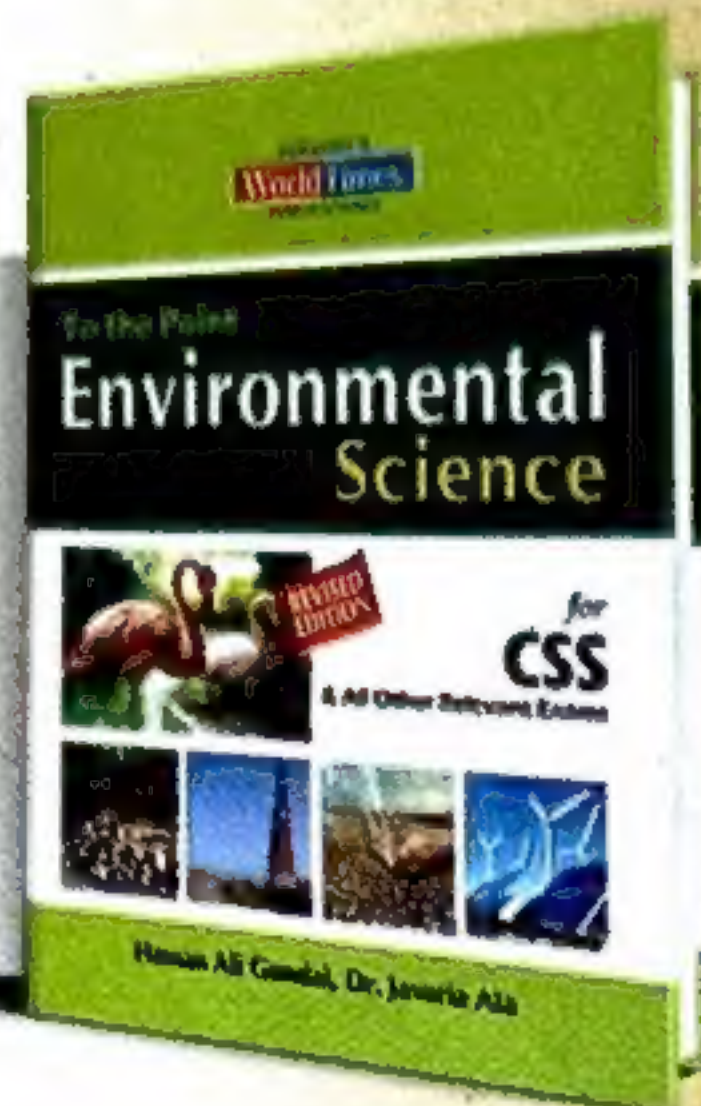
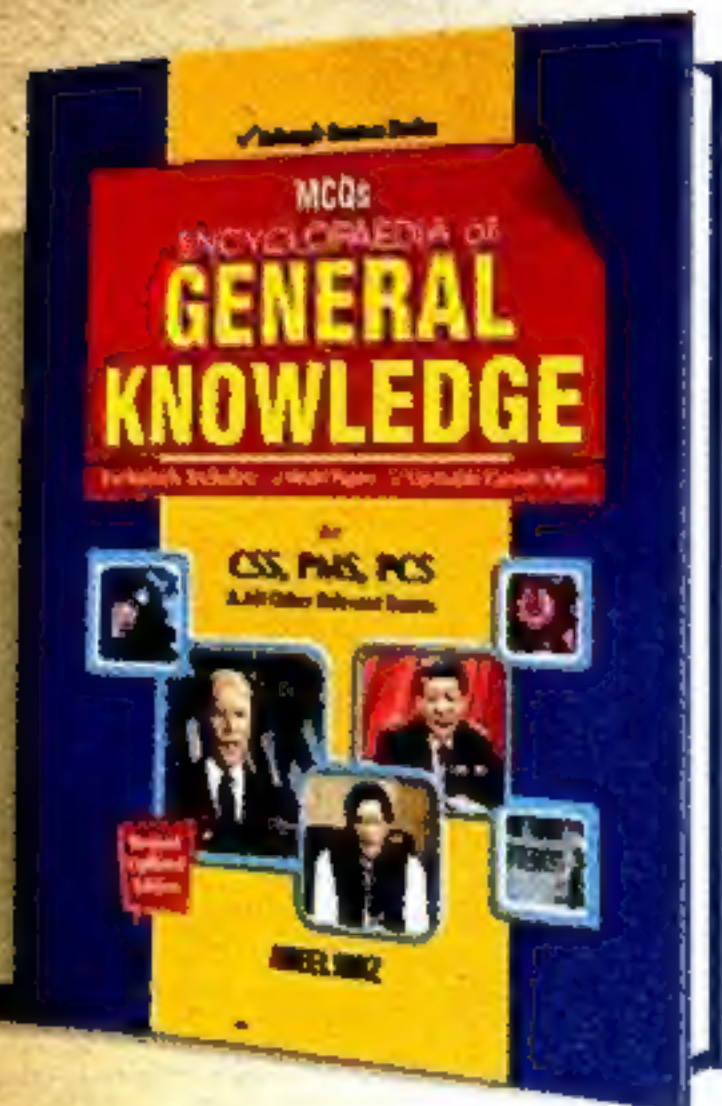
- (a) Washington DC (b) Vienna
(c) Toronto (d) Canberra

40. The United States, the United Kingdom and Australia announced to form a new trilateral partnership, AUKUS, on _____.

- (a) Sept. 12 (b) Sept. 13
(c) Sept. 14 (d) Sept. 15



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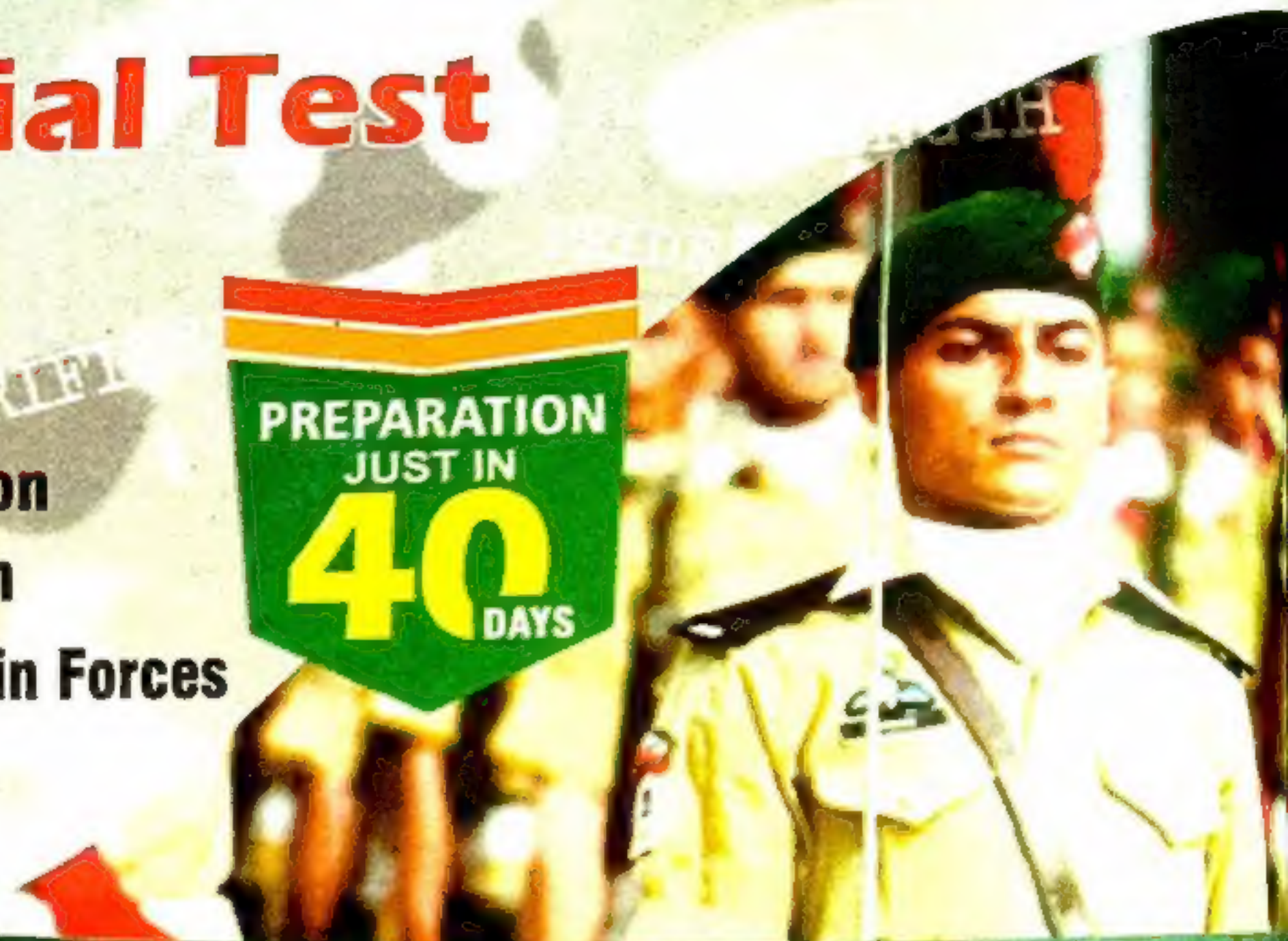
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